

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

### This week's poll:

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The gravely wounded U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords is upgraded from critical to serious condition.

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### Globe Honors

The Facebook tale "The Social Network" won top honors Sunday at the Golden Globes.

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## CPUC pays lawyer \$175 an hour; DPL sole-source contract at \$54K a year

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission has been paying the law office of G. Anthony Long \$175 an hour

since 2008, while the Department of Public Lands awarded in August 2010 a sole-source legal service contract of \$54,000 a year to former assistant attorney general Braddock Huesman.

These are based on a review of over 80

pages of documents obtained yesterday from former representative Tina Sablan who, along with two others, filed Open Government Act requests for information on government contracts awarded to attorneys, invoices, billings, and related

documents from 2008 to present.

Huesman was assistant AG assigned to DPL when the department was justifying with the Division of Procurement and Supply in July 2010 the need for a

See **LAWYER** on **Page 4**

## CUC fails to remit \$5.9M to OPA

### » Obligation covers 1 percent contribution from 2002 to 2010

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has not been remitting the mandated 1 percent contribution to the Office of Public Auditor for almost a decade now, resulting in a total outstanding obligation of \$5.9 million.



Pai

Public auditor Michael Pai said yesterday that his office is now developing a plan on how it could collect the obligation from the autonomous agency.

Based on OPA's records, CUC has not been following the law's mandate since 2002.

Pai confirmed that CUC last

See **CUC** on **Page 4**

## Balachandra's CHC contract not renewed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center will be losing another physician with the departure of Dr. Shirish Balachandra, the medical director for public health programs, due to the non-renewal of his contract.

Balachandra, whose contract is expiring middle of next month, was recently notified of the non-renewal of his contract and he is now taking advantage of his unused terminal leaves.

Saipan Tribune learned that

See **CONTRACT** on **Page 4**



Balachandra

## TRASH WARRIORS

About 40 members of the Saipan Awa-odori Dance Group from Koblerville and Paseo de Marianas Promoters, Inc. pose for the camera during their Garapan cleanup on Saturday, Jan. 15. The volunteers picked up trash along Coral Tree Avenue to the Fire Station then Beach Road straight up to Winchell's Road. A total of 400 lbs of trash were collected.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

See story on **Page 6**



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## Local

# 'King's message of love, justice relevant for today's NMI'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

With the rich cultural diversity in the CNMI, lawyer Jesse C. Pennington urges its people to come together to achieve justice, equality and peace in the community.

"If you want something to happen to the Marianas, you have to move your community together. If you care for your community, that's what you must do: move your feet, your heart, and resources," he said as he addressed the audience at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

A native of Mississippi and

a former director of Micronesian Legal Services in Palau, Pennington served as the keynote speaker during yesterday's commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Pennington's experience on discrimination in his hometown during his younger years influenced him to establish a career in the legal profession.

In his remarks, Pennington described King as "a man of vision" for leading the way in changing the plight of the African-American community using a nonviolent approach.

"His philosophy and vision is as good today as it was yesterday," he said, adding that

people still continue to talk about King's beliefs even after 40 years since he first made his voice heard, opposing injustice and poverty in society.

However, Pennington noted that King was not just a leader for the African-American population, saying that the iconic civil rights figure's famous "I Have A Dream" speech was intended for people of all races and ethnic groups.

"His message was about seeing the best in others and bringing out their best and making the world a better place to be," he said.

According to Pennington, the need to talk about history is still

pressing up to this day to reinforce the message to the people. "We must bear witness by telling the story. We should never stop telling so it does not happen again," he added.

Pennington said King's message of love rings true for any

nation that faces oppression and poverty while his equal rights and justice movement comprises legal, racial, social, and economic justice for all.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is observed every third Monday of January to mark the birthday of

the prominent leader in the African-American civil rights movement, which is around the time of his actual birthday, Jan. 15.

This is the 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the federal holiday and the fifth year anniversary of its observance in the CNMI.

## Santos: I have yet to be personally informed to move out of my office

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) said yesterday she has yet to personally receive notification from newly-elected Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) that her office will be relocated to the House minority side of the legislative building on Capital Hill.

Santos, however, said Cabrera will be meeting with her today.

"As to what the meeting is all about, I don't know yet," she said.

Rep. Froilan Santos Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), who had long wanted to step down as speaker, said he's supposed to move into Santos' room.

"I just want to make it clear it's the new speaker's decision to switch rooms, not mine," Tenorio said last week.

Tenorio removed Santos from the leadership and stripped her of her chairmanship of the Natural Resources Committee because she was voting with the minority.

Cabrera's office started relocating to Tenorio's former office space on Friday. But Teno-

rio's office materials were still in the same room because Santos' room has yet to be emptied of its current occupant's stuff.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan), who is now aligned with the majority, said Cabrera re-assigned his former room to Palacios, and that Palacios' former room will be occupied by Santos.

Santos said yesterday she understands that in any reorganization, the speaker has the inherent authority to re-assign any member his or her office.

"However, I request at least a minimal amount of courtesy, respect or decency be displayed in the handling of this matter," she said.

She said immediately after the oath-taking of the new speaker on Thursday, and as Santos was meeting with Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola, Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), other senators and investors, she received a call from one of her staffers who she said was informed to pack their belongings, "as we are being relocated to a smaller room."

The next day, as she was on Rota, another of her staff

called her to ask permission to go look for empty boxes, "since one of the [House] members' staff informed my staff that they are moving to our office."

"This incident was not the first time as it also happened when I was removed as the chairperson on the Committee on Natural Resources merely for not voting in line with the majority during the budget issue," she said.

Santos, a freshman lawmaker, said these matters "should be addressed directly to my attention either in oral or writing since I am the duly elected assigned to the office, thus the sole individual who is in charge of its daily activities and operation and who can clear incoming/outgoing inventory and not any of my staff."

"But regardless of where we are situated and how demeaning we are being treated, it will certainly not distract my commitment and focus in the execution of my duties and responsibilities as mandated by my people of Rota. In fact, I pledge to continue making the people of Rota my priority; by serving, defending and protecting their interests in the face of this retribution," she added.



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Visiting attorney Jesse C. Pennington appears to be in deep thought right before the start of a question-and-answer session at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day commemoration in which he was the keynote speaker, at the American Memorial Park Theater in Garapan yesterday afternoon. **See more photos on Page 9.**

## House expands from 20 to 80 pct. hotel rooms where smoking may be allowed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

By a vote of 15-0, the House passed on Thursday a bill amending the anti-smoking law to increase from 20 percent to 80 percent the number of rooms at each hotel that can be designated as smoking areas.

"This is a significant increase, but people should remember that this only applies to hotels and not any other business establishments like restaurants," Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan) said yesterday.

Iguel, chairman of the House Committee on Health, said the bill is backed by the hotel industry.

Signed on Sept. 29, 2009, Public Law 16-46 or the Smoke-Free Air Act of 2008 bans smoking in many public areas in the CNMI.

What the House did on Thursday was to amend Section 3177(c) to increase the percentage of hotel rooms designated as smoking rooms, from 20 per-

cent to 80 percent.

House Bill 17-70, House Substitute 1, authored by Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan), now goes to the Senate for action.

Amending the Smoke-Free Air Act of 2008 is one of three priority legislation identified during the full leadership meeting two weeks ago between the governor, lieutenant governor and lawmakers.

The other two are the \$6.2 million Marianas Visitors Authority incentive program bill, and amending a Commonwealth Utilities Corp. privatization law.

Tenorio, in his bill, said the current anti-smoking law imposes additional costs to employers and businesses as it continues to reduce customer patronage because of the percentage allocation designated for smoking and non-smoking rooms for hotels and motels.

The former speaker said the clientele mostly served in hotels are from Japan, China, Korea and other foreign countries who are mostly smokers or do

not affect their choices of smoking or no-smoking room option.

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, back in October, sought at the time that smokers be allowed to smoke on the balconies of their smoking-designated rooms.

HANMI later asked lawmakers to amend the law to allow up to 80 percent of hotel rooms to be designated smoking rooms and to allow smoking on the balconies of those rooms.

It said any substantial reduction in the number of smoking rooms will adversely impact each hotel's ability to accommodate smoking guests.

Under the sweeping anti-smoking law, smoking is prohibited in government facilities, all enclosed areas, and outdoor areas within 25 feet of any doorway entrance or exit to a government facility.

It also bans smoking in all enclosed areas of public places, including areas available to the general public and other common-use areas.

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### SSHS PTSA meeting tomorrow

To all parents and legal guardian of Saipan Southern High School: There will be a PTSA meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2011, from 6pm to 7pm, in the Manta café. **(PR)**

#### MRCDC sets executive board meeting

The Marianas Resource Conservation and Development Council will hold an executive board meeting/teleconference on Guam, Saipan, and Tinian on Thursday afternoon, Jan. 20, from 5pm to 6pm. The public is invited. For island-specific location information or special accommodation for disability call (671) 472-7447. **(PR)**

#### Marpi closure for

#### ordnance detonation

An ordnance disposal team from Guam will be on Saipan on Friday, Jan. 21, 2011, to blow up unexploded ordnances at 1pm. The Department of Public Safety will close off the entire Marpi area from the Last Command Post to the Bird Island lookout from 12pm to 2pm. The only place that will remain open during the operation is the Suicide Cliff area for observation only. Access will be allowed through the Far East Broadcasting road and the road behind the Marianas Country Club Golf Course. For more information, contact the department at 664-9001 or 664-9022. **(DPS)**

#### Kagman High sets PTSA meeting

The first PTSA meeting of Kag-

man High School for 2011 is set to begin at 6pm on Thursday, Jan. 20, in the cafeteria. Parents, guardians, students and school staff are encouraged to attend. Write to AniciaQT@gmail.com if you have any questions. **(PR)**

#### WIC Program training schedule

The CNMI WIC Program will be closed on the following dates for Professional Development Training.

- Jan. 21, 2011- 7:30am - 10:30am
- Jan. 28, 2011 - 7:30am - 10:30am
- Feb. 4, 2011 - 7:30am - 10:30am

Hours of operation will resume at 10:30am. Call the Clinic at 664-4084 or the Administration Office at 664-4067 for further inquiries. **(PR)**



# Fletcher named CUC deputy executive director

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has a new deputy executive director for the water and wastewater division who will begin work with the utility agency next month.

CUC executive director Abe

## 'Slaughterhouse to bring in economic opportunities to farmers and ranchers'

Agriculture consultant Isidoro T. Cabrera said that having a slaughterhouse on island will create a lot of economic opportunities for the islands' farmers and ranchers.

"Local farmers and ranchers have always been limited because the CNMI imports most of the meat available in the market. A slaughterhouse will allow our farmers and ranchers to raise more animals for commercial purposes," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

At present, local farmers and ranchers limit the number of animals they raise for lack of a slaughterhouse, Cabrera said. "They will raise more animals once we have that slaughterhouse up and running because they will be able to sell the meat," he added.

According to Cabrera, the slaughterhouse in Lower Base will bring in more revenue for farmers and ranchers since they

Utu Malae told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that off-island applicant Alan W. Fletcher has been named to the position.

Fletcher, according to Malae, is from Washington state where he is currently managing a water utility. He is expected to report for work at CUC on Feb. 21.

"The deputy executive direc-

tor [for water and wastewater] position has been accepted by Mr. Fletcher of Washington state and we hope to have him on board by Feb. 21st," said Malae, adding that Fletcher was among the top candidates who recently visited Saipan and CUC facilities as part of a job orientation.

The job vacancy announcement for the position was opened last year. It offers a salary ranging from \$100,000 to \$120,000 per annum.

Meantime, CUC has yet to name a qualified individual for the position of technical manager for oil. However, Malae disclosed that the former manager for oil, William Sword, is now doing a part-time work to help CUC address oil contamination mitigation at Lower Base and other areas.

"We are still trying to locate

a suitable technical manager for oil and have asked the previous manager to help us part-time for a few months until we can hire someone," said Malae.

He cautioned that the qualifications required for the position as published is misleading "because you get the initial impression that there are plenty of individuals that will meet the rather generic qualifications as written. Unfortunately, that is not the case. In actuality you require someone with very specific qualifications in the area of petroleum tank farm operations."

### New geologist

The hiring of a deputy executive director and a technical manager for oil are just two of several positions that CUC is required to fill in order to comply with the require-

ments of two stipulated orders.

Besides Fletcher, a geologist was also recently hired to help CUC with its oil contamination mitigation. This position was also required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that Max Simian, who used to work for the Division of Environmental Quality, has moved to CUC to do the job.

"Max Simian is a geologist with experience in environmental mitigation. He used to work for DEQ and is now assigned to help with the oil contamination mitigation at Lower Base and elsewhere. This is a position that federal experts advised us would be needed in addition to the technical manager for oil, which is a stipulated order position," said Malae.

## IMMIGRATION LAW

**Bruce L. Mailman**  
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# Fund 'strongly opposes' initiative on double dipping

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has said it "strongly opposes in its entirety" an initiative removing the two-year re-employment limitation on certain government retirees, among other things because it will further drain the pension system's resources.

Retirement Fund administrator Richard S. Villagomez, in a Jan. 10 letter to House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogomoro

(Cov-Saipan), said the passage of Senate Legislative Initiative 17-3 "will put a greater strain on the fiscal integrity of an already struggling pension system."

Villagomez said the Retirement Fund's life, if the status quo is maintained, "is a very short six to eight years" as illustrated to certain members of the Legislature in November 2010 in the governor's conference room.

"The main concern with this initiative is that the general fund's payment of salary will continue to increase when

the focus should be shifted to increasing payment to the Fund for decades of deficient employer contributions that has been reduced to judgment," Villagomez told Ogomoro.

Villagomez said the Retirement Fund is recommending steps to stabilize the system, but "allowing retirees to double dip forever will shorten the Fund's life span."

Double dippers are government retirees who go back to government service. They are called that because they contin-

ue to get their pension while receiving a government salary at the same time.

The House, during its session on Monday last week, held off action on Senate floor leader Pete Reyes's (R-Saipan) SLI 17-3, citing the need for more review.

Besides lifting the two-year reemployment limitation for certain retirees such as classroom teachers, doctors, nurses and other medical professionals, SLI 17-3 also gives the Legislature the authority to exempt additional job

categories but only after at least three-fourths majority vote of members of both houses.

Villagomez said allowing retirees to draw a pension and their salary as government employees will result in the general fund paying more for salaries rather than increasing its payment to the Retirement Fund to pay for decades of deficient employer contribution that has been reduced to judgment.

This has reached in excess of \$317 million.

## Library closed Wednesday to observe MLK Jr. Day

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be closed on Wednesday, Jan. 19, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Executive director John Oliver DLR Gonzales said the observance of the holiday is part of their policy wherein library staff are entitled to take unpaid leave to observe a holiday that falls on any day of the week.

Because of austerity measures in effect in all government agencies, the public library is open on Wednesdays from 11am to 7pm, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am to 5pm, and Saturdays from 9am to 4pm.

Gonzales said the CNMI's state library will resume normal business hours on Thursday, Jan. 20.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that people

should celebrate and share their God-given character, talents, and abilities in memory of King.

"That ought to be each one of our lifetime's challenge so that our world will live in harmony where unity in diversity is our global culture," said Gonzales.

A federal holiday, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is observed every third Monday of January to mark the birthday of the prominent leader of the American civil rights movement which is around the time of his actual birthday, Jan. 15.

In the CNMI, this is the fifth year anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day's commemoration. (*Clarissa David*)



### YOUNG VOLUNTEERS

Two young members of the Saipan Awaodori Dance Group from Kobleville help carry a bag of trash they picked up during the cleanup activity held Saturday at the Paseo de Marianas and nearby areas of Garapan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## CONTRACT

From Page 1

Balachandra last reported for work last week.

He is the husband of hospital nursing director April Ricotta, who recently resigned from her position.

Highly placed hospital sources told *Saipan Tribune* that Balachandra's non-renewal was an Executive Branch decision, described by some as "politically motivated."

*Saipan Tribune* tried to obtain comments from press secretary Angel Demapan yesterday but failed to get a response, both via emails and phone calls.

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kev-

in Villagomez also did not respond to several email and phone inquiries yesterday.

Balachandra moved to Saipan with his family in May 2008 to serve as one of the physicians at the emergency room. He worked there for more than two years prior to his appointment as public health medical director in October 2010 following the resignation of Dr. Richard Brostrom, who had moved to Hawaii.

Stationed at the TB and chest clinic, he still worked part-time at the emergency room.

His departure leaves the emergency room with just five physicians: Drs. Patrick Tong, Trent Schiebe, Greg Kotheimer, Marty Rohringer, and Cris Brown. One physician's assistant is

also at the ER section.

As of November 2010, DPH had 24 physicians onboard and over 200 nursing employees.

CHC is currently under a state of emergency due to a lack of physicians and quality of services it provides. It was earlier cited by Medicare for non-compliance with standards of care.

Balachandra was born in Illinois and grew up in Los Angeles, California and lived in India, Honduras, France and Cameroon, where he worked as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer, serving Somali and Liberia refugees in the area. He also studied molecular biology and French literature at the University of California Berkley and went to medical school at McGill University in Montreal, Canada.

## CUC

From Page 1

made a cash payment for the OPA contribution in 2001, totaling \$30,000.

"In 2002, there appears to have been an offset of about \$3.9 million of what CUC owed [the] OPA funding against the government's utility bills, which benefited the general fund," said Pai.

Since then, he said, CUC has not made any payments and it now owes the government about \$5.9 million as of 2009.

Pai declined to go into specifics on how OPA plans to collect the obligation, merely saying that "we will develop a plan."

CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae also refused yesterday to comment on the unremitted funding for OPA.

"We are not ready to comment on the OPA matter yet," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that there's a pending bill that tried to resolve the matter.

Senate Bill 17-44, which passed the House of Representatives on Wednesday, proposes to exempt CUC from the 1 percent OPA fee and has the full support of the utilities firm.

The legislation was approved by lawmakers who believe that CUC's exemption from the mandated fee will prevent it from increasing its rates and passing these rate increases to consumers.

CUC, which has been in a state of emergency since 2008, enforced a

15-percent hike in power rates just last week due to unfunded fuel costs.

OPA has been consistently opposed to such exemptions.

The 1 percent contribution is mandated by 1 CMC 7831(b), which requires all public corporations and autonomous agencies of the Commonwealth to pay OPA an amount no less than 1 percent of their total operations budget from sources other than legislative appropriations or pursuant to any other formula agreed upon the OPA and the agency.

The 1 percent OPA funding is a law that ensures that the funding of OPA will be independent of other entities, which in turn will support the independence of OPA in performing its duties.

## LAWYER

From Page 1

sole-source contract with Huesman as general in-house counsel.

DPL Secretary Oscar M. Babauta, when asked for comment yesterday, said there's no restriction as to how soon DPL could enter into a contract with a former assistant AG assigned to the department after leaving the government.

"For me, a flat rate of \$4,500 a month is a very reasonable amount given the nature of work he's been doing and his caliber. I am very satisfied with the service Mr. Huesman has been providing DPL," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune*.

Babauta, in a July 28 memo, said Huesman is in a unique position to assist DPL while allowing the department to reduce expenses on personnel. Huesman later became part of the law firm Fisher Huesman.

### CPUC

CPUC, a regulatory agency, signed a contract with the law office of G. Anthony Long in May 2008 for an hourly rate of \$175 plus costs.

Long, in a July 2008 letter to CPUC, said his standard hourly rate is \$200. However, for purposes of a request for proposal that CPUC issued, his hourly rate will be billed at \$175. A retainer is not required for this representation.

Long provided Sablan with redacted billing details "to remove information relating to attorney client privilege, attorney work product, legal opinions," among other things.

For invoices between June and December 2008, Long billed CPUC at least \$12,927.

Between February and October 2009, invoices totaled \$20,137.25. Invoices also totaled \$3,698.25 between January and November 2010.

In a Dec. 23 letter to Sablan, Long said CPUC has not yet made payment for the invoice dated Nov. 17, 2010, and CPUC has not yet billed for legal services rendered during November 2010 and any part of December 2010.

### Series of documents

On Sunday, Sablan also released documents she obtained from the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., the Marianas Public Land Trust, Office of the Governor, and the Office of the Attorney General.

These documents showed that agencies have been paying lawyers between \$95 and \$200 an hour, while others are paid up to \$80,000 a year.

For CUC alone, billings and invoices for two of five counsels exceed \$300,000 in fiscal year 2010 alone.

Sablan and two others filed 18 OGA requests for information from 19 government agencies.

In filing the OGA requests, Sablan said that legal services have historically been, and continue to be, a major government expenditure, as well as a significant source of abuse.

"We intend to bring to light any abuses of public funds or the CNMI procurement process that may have occurred, and may take further action as necessary," Sablan had said.

Sablan filed requests for information from other agencies but whose data have yet to be either provided by these agencies or compiled by Sablan, including the departments of Lands and Natural Resources, Commerce, Finance, Public Safety, Public Health, Public Works, and Labor; Commonwealth Development Authority, Northern Marianas College, NMI Retirement Fund, and Finance for information related to the Legislature and the Legislative Bureau.



# Dialysis building designer's subconsultant found liable to pay \$465K

» **CNMI's claims reach \$23M, but ends up with \$2M settlement**

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The local subconsultant of the Texas company that designed the Commonwealth Health Center's dialysis center has been found liable to pay over \$465,000 in a default judgment.

At a hearing Thursday, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Michael W. Mos-

man granted Leo A. Daly Co.'s motion for default judgment of \$465,574.40 against Juan C. Tenorio & Associates, JCT.

Mosman directed Leo Daly's lawyers to submit a form of judgment for the court's approval.

No one appeared for JCT at the hearing.

Leo A. Daly moved for a default judgment against JCT for allegedly ignoring its third party

complaint against the company.

Of the \$465,574.40 total award, \$400,000 represents JCT's share of the \$2 million settlement money that Leo A. Daly paid to the CNMI government.

The Texas company's counsel asserted in the motion that JCT lacks any excusable neglect defense in ignoring the pleading as well as the other letters sent seeking its involvement in addressing the CNMI's claims.

Given the lack of assistance, Leo A. Daly said it was forced to resolve all the CNMI claims at a settlement conference for a global figure of \$2 million.

"As the amount settled upon contemplated a total reduction of the claims of each design discipline at issue, the global settle-

ment amount was split equally amongst each discipline as the CNMI's claimed damages for each design discipline exceeded the amount for which [Leo A. Daly] ultimately resolved," according to its counsels, O'Connor and Weil & Drage law firms.

The CNMI government, through former Attorney General Matthew T. Gregory, sued Leo A. Daly in 2009 over the alleged defective building plan for the dialysis center. The law offices of William R. Sattersberg Jr. in Alaska then filed before the federal court an entry of appearances to represent the CNMI in the case.

Last year, Leo A. Daly settled the CNMI's \$10-million lawsuit for \$2 million. The

parties agreed that the settlement shall never be treated as an admission of liability of any settling party.

Leo A. Daly had also filed a third-party complaint against its subconsultants: JCT, Moss Engineering, Michael Hattori & Associates, Geotesting Inc., and several other unnamed third party co-defendants.

Moss Engineering and Michael Hattori & Associates participated in the settlement conference.

According to Leo A. Daly, the CNMI's initial global demand at the conference was \$23 million.

After two days of negotiations, the parties agreed to settle all claims against Leo A. Daly and its subcontractors for the global sum of \$2 million.

With the settlement, Leo A. Daly was assigned all claims,

rights, and damages for deficiencies relating to the services performed by its subconsultants.

The federal court's clerk of court last year entered a default judgment in the amount of \$449,472.37 against JCT for not responding to Leo A. Daly's lawsuit.

The federal court then set the hearing date for the motion for default to last Thursday. The judge felt that a hearing was still needed since it seems that the sum was not certain as any one of the third-party defendants could be more or less culpable.

The dialysis center project started out as a \$5 million undertaking during the Juan N. Babauta administration. It ballooned into a \$22-million project in the course of its five-year construction.

## Ex-convict is arrested for not showing up at review hearing

A man who was acquitted last month on charges of trafficking methamphetamine or "ice" but was found guilty of illegal possession of marijuana was arrested again last week for failing to appear at a review hearing on a previous criminal case.

George T. Manglona was brought to the Superior Court on Thursday shortly after he was served with a bench warrant issued by associate judge Kenneth Govendo.

Govendo issued the warrant on Jan. 6 after Manglona failed to appear at his review hearing related to an assault and battery conviction. The judge imposed a \$500 bail for Manglona's temporary release.

At Thursday's hearing, George Manglona said he was not aware of the proceedings and that he has been complying with all the conditions of his probation.

Assistant public defender Michael Brown appeared as counsel for Manglona. Assistant attorney general Ben-

jamin Petersburg represented the CNMI government.

Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona authorized George Manglona's release upon posting \$50 by today, Tuesday.

Judge Manglona ordered George Manglona to appear in court on Feb. 16, 2011, at 1:30pm for the review hearing.

When the jury found George Manglona guilty of marijuana possession on Dec. 17, he was immediately freed as the maximum sentence for marijuana possession is a \$50 fine.

When the trial was ongoing in that case, George Manglona was arrested and placed on house arrest for allegedly violating his curfew conditions.

George Manglona's co-defendant, Ignacio A. Deleon Guerrero Sr., was found guilty of conspiracy to trafficking "ice" and illegal possession of marijuana, and was acquitted on two counts of trafficking "ice" and two counts of illegal possession of "ice." (Ferdie de la Torre)



Manglona

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## NO ACCORD YET ON GOVT LIFE INSURANCE

## Month-to-month extension proposed for 6 months

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Insurance carrier Individual Assurance Co. is proposing a month-to-month extension of the life insurance policy for active government employees until it reaches an agreement with the Fitial administration.

NMI Retirement Fund administrator Richard Villagomez told the board of trustees at its Friday meeting that IAC can

sustain for now a month-to-month coverage for members for just six months.

Villagomez, the administrator for the Group Health Life Insurance Program, disclosed that IAC's contract actually expired on Dec. 31, 2010, but due to a "short extension" provided by the carrier, all active government personnel are covered by the policy at present.

"There's still coverage...but it's only on month-to-month ba-

sis. This offer is proposed for six months under the condition that the CNMI will enter a two-year contract with IAC, with more affordable premium," said Villagomez, adding that the six-month extension has yet to be finalized.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's press secretary, Angel Demapan, confirmed the current insurance policy status of government employees.

"The CNMI government is still in the negotiation process

for a new contract with IAC. In the meantime, insurance coverage for members is still in effect," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that he expects no disruption in the coverage of members while parties are negotiating. He expressed hope for a speedy resolution of the issue.

In the meantime, Demapan said, the administration is hopeful that the Legislature would soon pass House Bill 17-77 so that the government could seek

relief in a plan that is less costly than the current one.

The bill seeks to amend a law codified as the "Retirement Fund Contribution to Life Insurance" so that the Fund can negotiate for only one group life insurance for both retirees and active government employees.

The government will reportedly be able to save some \$1.5 million annually if a single policy is negotiated for everyone. Some lawmakers oppose the passage of this bill because they are concerned about the low benefits that may result from a single insurance coverage.

Fund officials disclosed that

IAC is not willing to provide life insurance coverage of up to \$20,000 per member.

Fund board chair Sixto Igiso-mar said during Friday's meeting that, since the Fund only administers the program, it cannot intervene in the negotiations between IAC and the Fitial administration.

Life insurance coverage was earlier expected to expire on Aug. 31 last year unless parties could negotiate a single and affordable policy for all. IAC extended the coverage for another three months—until Dec. 31—to give the administration more time.

## Convicted man admits to using 'ice'

A man convicted of beating up his common-law wife despite being on federal probation has admitted this time to using methamphetamine or "ice" and has agreed to be confined for three months at home.

Francisco Nakatsukasa Basa waived his rights to a hearing and to legal counsel. He also agreed to have the conditions of his probation and supervised release modified.

Basa, 35, said he will pay for the cost of his participation in the U.S. Probation's Location Monitoring Program.

Basa said he is willing to be

restricted to his residence at all times except for employment, education, religious services, medical, substance abuse or mental health treatment, attorney visits, court appearances, court-ordered obligations, or other activities pre-approved by his probation officer.

With the signing of the waiver, U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order Basa to serve three months of home confinement under the U.S. Probation Location Monitoring Program.

The federal court sentenced

Basa in 2006, to four years and six months in prison after being convicted of conspiracy to distribute 50 grams of "ice." He was placed on five years probation after serving his sentence.

In his report, Arriola stated that on July 23, 2010, U.S. Probation Officer Melinda B. Santos notified the federal court that Basa had been arrested on May 23, 2010, for choking and punching his common-law wife in the face.

Arriola said that Santos filed the report for informational purposes and pending the outcome of the case in the Superior Court.

Basa subsequently entered a guilty plea to the offense of as-

sault and battery. In November 2010, the Superior Court sentenced him to 30 days in prison, with credit for the two days he had already served in jail.

Basa was to start serving his sentence on Jan. 2, 2011. Once he gets out, he was to be placed on probation for six months.

Arriola said that on Oct. 29, 2010, Basa reported to the U.S. Probation Office and submitted to a random drug test; the result was presumptive positive for "ice."

When questioned about the results, Arriola said that Basa verbally admitted and in writing that he smoked "ice" on Oct. 28, 2010.

Arriola said Basa attends all required counseling and random drug testing, reports to the U.S. Probation Office weekly, and is performing his community service.

Arriola said Basa has registered with the Northern Marianas Trade Institute and will begin vocational training after he completes his sentence. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## Awaodori dancers learn about taking care of environment through cleanup

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

About 40 members of the Saipan Awaodori Dance team of Koblerville and Paseo de Marianas Promoters, Inc. took part in a Garapan cleanup last Saturday.

The volunteers picked up trash along Coral Tree Avenue to the Fire Station then Beach Road straight up to Winchell's Road.

Sonia Siwa of PDM Promoters, Inc. said a total of 400 lbs of trash were collected in the area.

Siwa told *Saipan Tribune* that the cleanup is part of the community service rendered by the young dancers as members of the Awaodori team.

"We explain this to the new members as well as their parents right from the start to instill in them the value of keeping our sur-

roundings clean and taking care of the environment," she said.

According to Siwa, the young dancers not only enjoy the experience with other volunteers but also learn about the different ways they can help keep the community clean.

Siwa said the young dancers' participation in the cleanups has even taught them to do the same in their own villages.

"Because they themselves experience picking up trash, they take the initiative to pick up whatever trash they see in their neighborhood. They learn in the process that trash should be disposed of properly," she added.

Siwa expressed her appreciation to Joe Kaipat of the Division of Environmental Quality for providing gloves and trash bags used during the cleanup as well as four boxes of refreshments for the volunteers.



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/s/ OSCAR M. BABAUTA  
SECRETARY OF DPL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S



**Procurement And Supply  
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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**RFP NO.: RFP11-DEQ-039**  
Submission: February 09, 2011 Time: 2:00 P.M.

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The complete scope of work will be available at the DEQ front desk or can be received electronically by contacting the CRM Nonpoint Source Pollution Coordinator at (670) 664-8305, or by emailing [rachel.zuercher@crm.gov.mp](mailto:rachel.zuercher@crm.gov.mp)

Questions regarding this project may be faxed to Mr. Frank M. Rabauliman at (670) 664-8540 no later than the close of business, **January 27, 2011**.

This is a federally funded project, as such, local preference **is not available** because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAUULIMAN  
Director, DEQ

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Director, Procurement & Supply


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**State Rehabilitation Council**  
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TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: [nmidir@ovrgov.net](mailto:nmidir@ovrgov.net)



## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY '11 First General Membership on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at the Azucena I, Fiesta Resort and Spa at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.


**AGENDA**

- Meeting Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Review and adoption of Agenda
- Review and adoption of the FY'10 4th Meeting Minutes (09/15/10)
- Reports
  - OVN Director
  - SRC Chair
- Election of Officers: Chair, Fiscal Officer, & Secretary
- Approval of 2011 Resource Plan
- Consumer Forum
- Announcements
- Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ **Jesus M. Elameto**  
**CHAIRMAN**

## MEETING NOTICE



Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a Regular Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

**MEETING AGENDA**

- Preliminary Matters**
  - all to Order
  - Roll Call
  - Adoption of Agenda
  - Adoption of Minutes – December 9, 2010
- Public Comments**
- Committee Reports**
  - Finance
  - Personnel
    - Health Insurance Policy
    - Other HR Matters
- Old Business**
- New Business**
  - Legal Counsel Services – renewal option
- Executive Session**
  - Fiscal Status

**Adjournment**

/s/ **Marian Aldan-Pierce**  
Acting Chair, MVA Board of Directors



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# Dangerous waves, dramatic rise of seas today

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. National Weather Service in Guam issued a high surf warning yesterday, advising people in the Marianas region to avoid exposed reefs and beaches due to dangerous waves and a dramatic rise of seas this week.

The weather bureau also issued a small crafts advisory, warning mariners about hazardous seas that are expected beginning 6am today, Tuesday, until Thursday at 6am.

Surf is predicted to be at its highest today, with swells expected to rise to 10 or 11 feet. Swells will remain high Wednesday into Thursday, continuing to rise no less than 8 to 9 feet.

According to the bureau, a strong cold front south of Japan is creating a large area of gale force winds northwest of the Marianas.

"These winds are producing large swells, which will cause seas to start rising dramatically early Tuesday morning," the weather service said.

The large swells are expected to create hazardous surf on north and west facing reefs from today, Tuesday, at 6am until Sunday at 6pm.

A high surf warning means that dangerous battering waves will pound the reefs, producing deadly rip currents and potentially major coastal erosion and likely coastal inundation.

"Expert hazardous surf to rise rapidly on north and west facing reefs starting early Tuesday morning. Surf will peak at 12 to 16 feet Tuesday afternoon. Surf will then diminish somewhat but remain hazardous for the rest of the week," the weather bureau said.

It warned that coastal erosion or property damage is possible in low-lying areas or where

wave action is close to shore.

"This is most likely at high tide which occurs at around 7:30am and 5:30pm on Tuesday. The high tide at 5:30pm is 2.5 feet...one of the highest of the year," the weather service said.

The weather bureau advised mariners and people to stay clear of life threatening surf along north and west facing reefs. "Do not go out to see the surf!"

The U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam is urging inexperienced and experienced beach-goers alike to use caution while in the water and stay away from the reef lines. In areas with high surf, swimmers may have difficulty returning to shore because of the increased speed of rip currents. The strength and speed of a rip current will likely increase as wave height and wave period increases.

Rip currents are especially dangerous as they have the po-

tential to pull a swimmer out several hundred yards from shore and beyond the reef line. Rip currents can be found anywhere there is a break in the reef line. If in doubt, don't go out!

"For the boating public, if you must go out, ensure that you are wearing an appropriate personal flotation device and have a means of signaling for help should you be in distress," said the Coast Guard.

Another smart and safe step to take is filing a float plan that can be as easy as telling someone who is not a part of one's activity on the water where you are leaving from, where you intend to go and when you will return. This information is invaluable to the Coast Guard in planning a Search and Rescue operation should you not return on time.

To report any maritime emergency, call the Sector Guam Command Center at 671-564-USCG.



## ALL PACKED AND READY TO GO

Rep. Froilan Tenorio's (Cov-Saipan) documents and other office materials are all piled up in this area on Friday afternoon, waiting to be moved into the current office of Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota). Tenorio's room will be occupied by newly elected Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan).

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

# Chamorro language expert is new LSA president

A long-time friend of Chamorros and contributor to the Chamorro Dictionary Revision Project has been named the 87th president of the Linguistic Society of America.

Dr. Sandra Chung of the University of California, Santa Cruz, is probably the foremost scholar of Chamorro language in the United States. In addition to Chamorro, Dr. Chung has also studied other languages of the Pacific, including Indonesian, Maori, Samoan, and Tongan.

Dr. Chung's interest in Chamorro began in 1977 when she taught a field methods class at UC San Diego with the help of Francisco Tomokane.

She has contributed numerous scholarly works on Chamorro throughout her career. In

one of her books, *The Design of Agreement: Evidence From Chamorro* (1998), a reviewer noted that her book, "...the result of 20 years fieldwork on Chamorro, stakes a claim to be one of the classic works in American linguistics." He went on to state that the book is both timely and timeless.

Founded in 1924, the Linguistic Society of America is the major professional society in the United States dedicated to the scientific study of language. It also advocates for sound educational and political policies concerning language.

This is the first time that the LSA has a scholar of the Chamorro language as its president. Dr. Chung's term began on Jan. 9,

2011, and lasts until Jan. 8, 2012.

In 2008, Dr. Chung and Dr. Elizabeth D. Rechebei received funding from the National Science Foundation to lead a three-year collaborative project to revise the Chamorro-English Dictionary by Topping, Ogo, and Dungca (1975). This project is a collaboration between the University of California, Santa Cruz and the NMI Council for the Humanities.

The key players in the revision are members of the Saipan, Tinian and Rota community who are actively involved in the revision process, in identifying new words not in the current dictionary, and in developing sentences illustrating each word in both Chamorro and English.

Editing work, with the assistance of Tita A. Hocog of Rota and Manny F. Borja on Saipan, has commenced and will con-

tinue for the next two to three years. At present, there are over 9,000 entries with at least 3,000 more anticipated.

Dr. Chung is also writing a new Chamorro reference grammar under the auspices of the project. This grammar, together with the revised dictionary, the new Chamorro orthography adopted by the CNMI Chamorro/Carolinian Language Policy Commission, and other resources in existence, will be valuable in sustaining and strengthening the Chamorro language in the community and teaching it in the schools.

The Chamorro-English Dictionary Revision Project members are grateful to have Dr. Chung in this project and are proud that she has been named the president of a prestigious society. (**Dr. Elizabeth D. Rechebei**)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 18, 1999

### House acts on retirement bill

The House of Representatives has set in motion an administration's request to remove a retirement bonus given to civil service employees in fear the benefits may throw the cash-strapped government into deeper financial woes. A bill grandfathering those employees eligible to receive the bonus passed the House last Friday as members assured recent retirees that they will receive their money once the local revenue collections improve in the next few years. Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, author of House Bill 11-359, said the proposed measure will guarantee payment of the bonus equivalent to 30 percent of the employee's annual salary at the end of his government service.

### House denounces OIA for report

Members of the House of Representatives fired two resolutions on Friday strongly denouncing the U.S. Department of the Interior over a federal report that largely ignored recent reforms initiated by the CNMI government on local labor and immigration. The resolutions also called on the U.S. Congress to reject what CNMI lawmakers consider is another attempt by some Washington officials to press for a federal takeover through rehash of allegations leveled against the Northern Marianas. According to the House, the DOI report on the Federal-CNMI Initiative on Labor and Law Enforcement is "inaccurate, misleading, inflammatory and otherwise contrary to the current situation" on the island.

Jan. 18, 2000

### JTB eyes 3 percent hike in overseas Japanese travel

The Japan Travel Bureau has projected that a total of 16.92 million Japanese will travel in the year 2000 or a 3.2 percent jump from the previous record of 16.80 million in 1997. JTB, the world's biggest tour operator, said numerous millennial events planned should stimulate demand for overseas travel, including the Sydney Olympics where Japan will be competing in the soccer events. The present high exchange rate for the yen may also encourage young women office workers to go overseas to shop. JTB expects the number of Japanese who will travel within Japan to reach a total of 325.44 million, or a 1.8 percent jump this year. Those who will travel within Japan and overseas this year just to participate in the various commemorative events will increase 1.9 percent or a total of 342.36 million.

### Debt-to-equity conversion for CUC's \$107M loan eyed

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is hoping to retire its debt amounting close to \$107 million through a plan that will be announced by next month as part of the efforts to forge ahead with the new power project proposal for Saipan. CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez has been tasked by the board to develop the scheme to wipe out its mounting financial obligations to the Commonwealth Development Authority. According to CDA board chair John S. Tenorio, the government's chief lending agency will propose a debt-to-equity conversion which will be more acceptable to them than other options, including debt forgiveness.

Jan. 18, 2001

### Prospects good for securities bourse in NMI

Given the dominance of United States-based banking laws here, prospects are bright for the development of a finance-based activity in the Northern Marianas as efforts are being intensified to alleviate the CNMI's dependence on the highly-volatile tourism and garment industries. Being a U.S. jurisdiction that is only at least three hours plane ride away from the heavily populated Asia makes the establishment of a securities exchange bourse in the Northern Marianas feasible, commerce officials said. CNMI's financial services industry is presently concentrated in banking, the Commonwealth being a home to 10 banks.

### CPA probes oil leakage at airport

Two key agencies have deployed a full scale investigation in search for the culprit behind the estimated 6,000 gallons of jet fuel that has leaked at the Saipan International Airport grounds. The Division of Environmental Quality has signaled the Commonwealth Ports Authority to start investigation of the incident after receiving reports indicating possibilities of a potential contamination problem at the airport. DEQ issued a Notice of Violation, ordering CPA to evaluate the extent of the contamination, if any, and develop a cleanup action plan.



# Martin Luther King Jr. Day



A photo of U.S. President Barack Obama, left, and the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. are flashed on a screen right before the start of the MLK Day celebration at the American Memorial Park Theater in Garapan yesterday afternoon. Obama is the first African-American president of the United States, while King advocated a nation free from discrimination in various forms.



Keynote speaker attorney Jesse C. Pennington of Mississippi addresses the crowd at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration.



Attorney Jesse C. Pennington, left, and attorney Joe Hill, right, president of the African American Cultural Preservation Committee on Saipan, form a circle and hold hands with others at the American Memorial Park Theater yesterday.



Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, via video, addresses the crowd at the MLK Day celebration on Saipan.



Ambrose Bennett, left, shows a 2006 issue of *Saipan Tribune* published a day after the MLK Day holiday in the CNMI was signed into law, while CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Ken Govendo looks on.



From left, attorney Jesse C. Pennington, CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Ken Govendo, and attorney Joe Hill, president of the African American Cultural Preservation Committee on Saipan.



Attorney Jane Mack, directing attorney at the Micronesian Legal Services-CNMI, talks about the challenge of justice for all in the Marianas, as guest speaker at the MLK Day celebration yesterday.



Attorney Jesse C. Pennington, born and raised in Percy, Mississippi, kneels in prayer during his address to the crowd. Pennington's presentation included a comparison of his law practice in the United States and during his time in the Micronesian Legal Services in Palau from 1975 to 1978.



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Tampering with citizenship

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**L**egislators from five states have unveiled model legislation with complicated provisions but a simple and pernicious premise: that children born in this country aren't citizens if their parents are illegal immigrants.

That assertion, however, is no match for more than 100 years of Supreme Court precedent holding that anyone born in the United States is an American citizen. If the states enact laws disregarding that principle, the court should resoundingly reaffirm its interpretation of the 14th Amendment.

The amendment, ratified after the Civil War, says: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside."

The natural reading of that language is that it covers any person born in the United States, who by definition is subject to American law. But the legislators opposed to so-called birthright citizenship offer a different interpretation of "subject to the jurisdiction thereof." They argue that a child is not subject to the jurisdiction of the United States unless he or she has "at least one parent who owes no allegiance to any foreign sovereignty, or (is) a child without citizenship or nationality in any foreign country."

The legislators lack the authority to change the definition of citizenship, something they hope Congress will do. But they hope to lay the groundwork for a two-tiered system with two proposals based on the idea that birthright citizenship is invalid.

One would confer what's known as "state citizenship" on people with at least one parent who is a citizen or permanent legal resident, while denying it to children with two parents who are illegal immigrants. The other would create a compact in which participating states would issue two kinds of birth certificates, one for children who meet those criteria and another for children "not born subject to the jurisdiction of the United States," in effect creating a caste system.

The legislators' definition of citizenship is impossible to reconcile with Supreme Court precedent. In 1898, the court, interpreting the 14th Amendment in light of common law, ruled that the American-born child of noncitizen Chinese immigrants was entitled to citizenship. It rested its decision on the "fundamental rule of citizenship by birth within the territory." The only exceptions, the court said, were "children of foreign sovereigns or their ministers, or (those) born on foreign public ships, or (children) of enemies within and during a hostile occupation of part of our territory, and ... children of members of the Indian tribes owing direct allegiance to their several tribes."

In the event that the legislators' initiatives are enacted, that precedent surely would lead the Supreme Court to strike them down. Still, these proposals muddy the legal waters in service of a mean-spirited campaign against the children of illegal immigrants. Whether it's hysteria about "anchor babies" or opposition to the DREAM Act, which would provide a pathway to citizenship for children brought to this country at a young age, anti-immigrant fervor is unworthy of this society. So is this ill-considered assault on a long-established legal principle.



## Sea turtle status and conservation efforts in the CNMI

By TAMMY SUMMERS  
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

**T**he following is a brief update regarding sea turtle status, conservation, and current activities of the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources Sea Turtle Research and Conservation Program.

Sea turtles are a long-lived species with a complex life history. They undertake wide-ranging, international migrations and reach maturity (age at first reproduction) at about 30 years of age. This life cycle leaves turtles vulnerable to multiple sources of mortality or impacts (harm) ranging from natural environmental causes to human-caused impacts from development, disease, fisheries, or direct harvest.

The status of green turtles in the Mariana Archipelago is not well known due to the lack of long-term data on nesting and foraging populations. "Long-term data" means information ranging over the species lifespan, or about 30-60 years. Consistent monitoring to document population trends at nesting and foraging habitats is needed to evaluate recovery progress. Information from local CNMI residents suggests nesting activity has decreased over time, likely a result of direct harvest, coastal development, and WWII impacts to nesting turtles and their habitats.

Nesting beach data collected since 1999 in both Guam and CNMI indicate that approximately 10-20 females may nest annually throughout the Mariana Archipelago. Unfortunately, a high proportion of those nests and females are harvested every year, in addition to foraging turtles from reef habitats. Genetic samples indicate that green turtles nesting in Guam and CNMI have a common haplotype (same genetics) and should be treated as a single management unit (NMFS unpublished data). Satellite tracking of two nesting female green turtles documented their migration from Guam to the Philippines and Japan. A similar pattern of migration is predicted for turtles nesting in the CNMI (DLNR currently has two satellite tags to deploy once appropriate sized (large) sea turtles are encountered).

In-water surveys undertaken between 1998 and 2001 estimated that 1,000 to 2,000 green turtles may occur in the waters of CNMI.



K. HAYASHI

Jessy Hapdei hand-captures juvenile green turtles on Rota and brings them to the boat for tagging and measurements.

Genetic data indicate that these foraging turtles are recruits from international nesting populations. Therefore, while there may appear to be an abundance of turtles in the water, this is not reflective of the future abundance of Mariana nesting turtles because foraging turtles will migrate to other Pacific areas to nest. Conversely, nesting females likely migrate to CNMI from international foraging habitats. Nesting females not only perpetuate the species, but the loss of an adult is a significant impact to the population given that it may have taken her 30 or more years to mature. The number one conservation strategy is to protect beaches and females to ensure that turtles can nest, that nests can hatch, and that hatchlings enter the sea.

The DLNR Sea Turtle Research and Conservation Program monitor both the nesting and foraging population of turtles occurring in the CNMI. Between 2006 and 2010, 14 individual green turtles

See SEA TURTLE on Next Page

### CONTACT INFO

Volunteer with the Sea Turtle Program: 664-6026/ haggan@pacmares.com  
CNMI Sea Turtle Conservation Program: 664-6024/ info@pacmares.com  
Report harassment or capture of turtles: DLNR Enforcement 664-6030/898-3570  
Rota DLNR 532-9494/5  
Tinian DFW 433-1404/1  
On the web: <http://www.pacmares.com/stp/Welcome.html>



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True Grit

**P**ronounced Lofner or Loner, it finally does not matter. Jared Lee Loughner is no laughing matter. And many of us liberals who are swift to foist the Christian virtue of forgiveness, are secretly yearning for retribution.

Fr. Gary Bradley, S.J., used to rile his audience when he would affirm that we in the Micronesian Islands are religious, and then turn around to ask in his impish smile, “but are we spiritual?” *Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do* is indeed a great religious sentiment, but what is its legal implication and, more importantly, how do we attend to our restless spirit that intuits a grave dysfunction in our body politic?

A theologian colleague, Gene Marshall, makes the distinction between “religion” and “spirit” using the analogy of soap and taking a bath. Religion as soap is only useful if it serves the function of the bath, otherwise, as some soaps today are heavy with chemicals that induce allergic responses, they no longer serve the function of a healthy bath. One does not have to have soap to bathe, though the soap can be useful in getting one clean.

The tradition of Crimean spas favored by the Romans use steam to induce the body oil to push the dirt out of the skin pores, use olive branch to scrape the dirt off, and flowers to scent their bodies, a practice still offered in pricey spas for tourists and the gilded crowd. Cheap pharma-scents keep soap away from healthy baths. Many religious practices turn off genuine spirit.

Loughner is a confused lad on a good day, and he wanted to really understand things—life, his government, official pronouncements and the future. He valued independence and was wary of anyone or anything that showed an element of control over his mind and behavior. He yearned for spirit.

Let me back off and say how I am using the word “spirit.” Every person has the capacity to step outside of one’s self and relate to something other than one’s self. Establishing a relationship, a connection with that “which is not me” is what we are pointing to with the word “spirit.” It is a connectedness, a relationship outside of enclosed personal universes.

Loughner could not connect. The wisdom of the last 500 years of enlightenment and rationalism is the notion that somehow words will allow us to understand reality. In fact, the object of science has been to create a language that would allow for a one-to-one correspondence so that precision can be attained, and certitude assured. Jared evidently wanted that kind of understanding and he was not getting that confidence from academe, altered consciousness, and definitely, not from religion. But he had the curse of Job—a confidence in his virtue and self-righteousness.

We remember the story of Job who was so certain of his recti-

SEA TURTLE

From Page 10

have been recorded nesting at five different beaches. Four of these turtles were poached, leaving a total of 10 Saipan turtles. Wing and Tank beaches are the hotspots for poaching activity. To date, the in-water program has captured, tagged, and measured 142 green and hawksbill turtles from reefs surrounding Saipan, Rota and Tinian. This capture-mark-recapture program will generate information regarding growth rates, foraging ecology, habitat use, residency, movement patterns, and regional connectivity acquired through genetic samples to help better inform DLNR management decisions regarding CNMI sea turtle resources.

Sea turtles in CNMI are protected from harm by local law (CNMI Public Law 2-51), federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) law, and international law (CITES). Under the ESA and its corresponding regulations, it is illegal to take, possess, sell, deliver, receive, import, export, carry, transport, or ship any endangered species. A violation of the ESA can result in civil penalties up to \$25,000 per violation, criminal fines up to \$50,000, and imprisonment up to one year per violation. Under CNMI local law, a penalty or fine up to \$5,000, imprisonment up to 6 months, or both, can be assessed per violation.

In the CNMI, illegal poaching of turtles and nests, nesting habitat degradation, and lack of education and public awareness continue to be primary threats to sea turtle conservation efforts. Saipan residents are stakeholders in conservation and with appropriate knowledge can make responsible choices. Such stakeholder support and involvement will give the CNMI turtle program longevity, with increased ability to address localized threats, and new opportunities to inform the public. DLNR is obligated as a government agency to conserve and manage turtles within the CNMI, however, they can not achieve this alone. Greater community buy-in and public collaboration is needed since the long-term survival (and ultimate recovery) of the population resides in the hands and actions of local residents to preserve sea turtles for future generations.

Tammy Summers is with the CNMI Sea Turtle Program.

tude that he finally raised his voice to question the reason behind his suffering. The heavens thundered back: *Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?* That, of course, runs against the grain of scientific inquiry that seeks to define, but in the process, limits understanding. The method has become dear to us, but as the t-shirt slogan and the bumper sticker declare, in the calmness of the Buddha: Shit happens! It is not for us to reason why, only that we courageously move on. The response is the Indian “Om,” and the desert’s “Amen.”

Not good enough, says the pundits. In a dignified memorial event at the University of Arizona in Tucson, President Obama lifted up the unique and unrepeatable gifts of the lives untimely completed and invoked the wisdom of Job to note the futility of seeking blame for the painful desecration of lives. He was accused of staging a political rally.

How do we these days celebrate the completion of a life without falling into the arrogance of ignorance, or escaping into the illusion of a promised hereafter? Job fell on the first, and the Pharaohs of Egypt and Shi Huangdi of China, as evident in the pyramids and the terracotta army in Xi’an, bought into the second. There’s a third way, the acceptance of the way life is. Life happens, and one can be thankful!

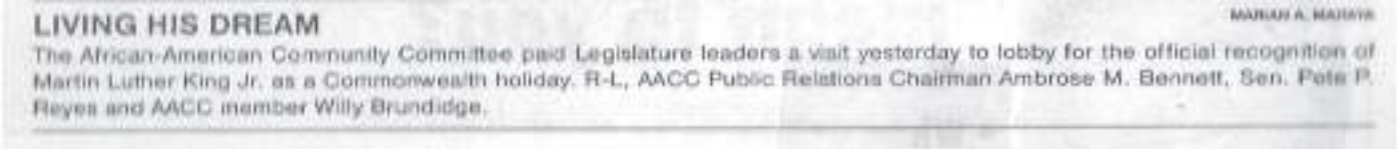
The movie *True Grit* (two-word expression in western U.S. of one devoted to pursuing what is right regardless of the cost) is both religious and spiritual. A 14-year-old girl engages a marshal and joins a lawman to pursue the killer who murdered her father. The

Letter to the Editor

MLK Day: A Day to Remember

MLK Day is truly a day to remember, as I can remember in 2003, when Willie and I were the only two people pushing for Dr. King’s birthday to be recognized. A lot has happened since then and we have even conducted commemorative marches to immortalize Dr. King and his fight for equality among all people.

I have written many letters trying to expand on what Dr. King taught. I’m sure most people know I have been trying to help the CNMI overcome educational, social, economical and political challenges in one way or another because this is what I was taught to do by Dr. Martin Luther King in person, not over the TV. I have paid dearly for my efforts to try and educate citizens about our shortcomings in the CNMI and what is needed to make things better. My family has also suffered from the antics and efforts of my critics to block anything and everything that I try to do to improve our financial status for a better quality of life. I want to thank my wife and kids for standing by me and those in the general public who truly appreciate what



I have been trying to do for all of us. But most of all, I want to thank Dr. King for all that he unselfishly gave to me and millions of others. Dr. King faced the hardest of times and made the ultimate sacrifice so that people like me can do what they do. It is indeed an honor to carry on his teachings and I consider it a very special privilege to have the memory of marching with and being educated by Dr. King himself.

I don’t have to worry about those who appreciate me but I do have to pray for everyone, including my critics, especially the cyber rats who remind me of the KKK because they only come out when their identity is hidden. As Dr. King always stayed on his critics’ case, I have followed in his footsteps and his work speaks volumes to his memory and the battle that I have undertaken to help the citizens of the CNMI overcome the many challenges we face. Dr. King was often referred to as a *drum major* as school bands were and still are a big thing in the African-American educational institutions. But I have been branded *controversial* or worse by my critics in these modern times but our stories are really the same in many ways.

It may be best said with Dr. King’s own words and I’m sure he won’t mind. Dr. King once wrote: *If you want to say that I was*



By JAIME VERGARA  
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune’s Opinion Section.

story, narrated by the girl, drops the pearl at the beginning: *Nothing in life is free save by the grace of God.* Life happens and it came with the price of an arm. She was grateful.

The limits of understanding has driven many to the ideological certitude of the fanatic believer, and it has taken a shattering experience for the U.S. Congress to realize that strict dichotomies do not serve anyone’s purpose. Still, the rude awakening in the bursting of balloons by 9/11, and now, the Cliffords tragedy in Tucson reveal the cost of paying life attention, and affirming just the way life is, by transforming it with one’s own true grit. Nine-year-old Christina Green did so with her life, but if bloggers’ vitriol and pundits cynicism have their way, they’d rather have chemically manufactured grit and fling it in the face of reality and hope.

Go see *True Grit*. You might have a religious experience and a spiritual awakening. We did.



a drum major (controversial), say that I was controversial for justice—say that I was controversial for peace between locals and aliens and yes I was controversial for righteousness and all other shallow and important things that matter like equality, education, social, economic and political challenges. I won’t have any (land) money to leave behind or the fine and luxurious things of life to leave behind. But I just want to leave a committed life behind. I have tried to live by an old Negro spiritual just as Dr. King and I will share the words with you.

*If I can help somebody as I pass along,  
If I can cheer somebody with a word or song  
If I can show somebody he’s traveling wrong—CNMI  
They my living will not be in vain  
If I can do my duty as a Christian ought  
If I can bring salvation to a world once wrought—CNMI  
If I can spread the message as the master taught  
Then my living will not be in vain*

I know my students and people who really know me can identify me with these words. Maybe one day even my critics will realize and say Ambrose tried and did his best to help the people of the CNMI because I know in my heart that I have given my all an all. We will never forget Dr. King and thanks to people using my name for a title in the Opinion section, I may not be forgotten for a long time. Just like Dr. King paved the way for me, I’m paving the way for others to follow so they won’t be subjected to the same hardships of our wrought society. One people one direction for keeping hope and the dream alive.






Ambrose Bennett  
Kagman, Saipan



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Highs in the mid 80s.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°	▲85° ▼77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲85 ▼78
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲83 ▼76
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲88 ▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲81 ▼76

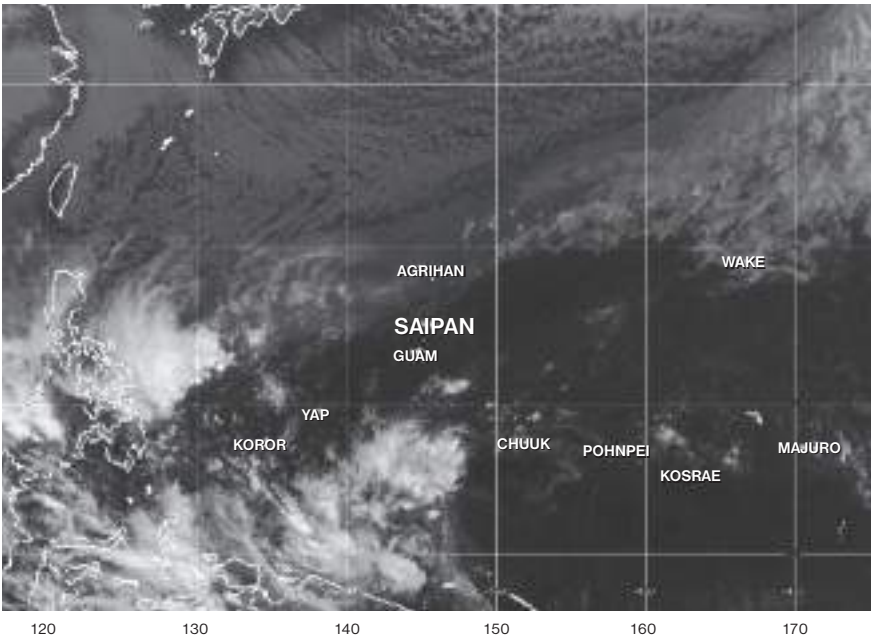
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Thundershowers	▲75 ▼73
Beijing	Sunny	▲30 ▼10
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲62 ▼53
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲78 ▼65
London	Showers	▲45 ▼34
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲74 ▼54
Manila	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲71 ▼58
Miami	Showers	▲78 ▼63
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲25 ▼22
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲46 ▼35
Paris	Showers	▲48 ▼38
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲42 ▼24
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲60 ▼44
Salem	Showers	▲52 ▼39
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲65 ▼51
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲28 ▼11
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲50 ▼36
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲36 ▼32

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
6:57 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet	
11:43 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet	
4:44 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
10:48 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 2011**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N161E to between Alamagan and Pagan to beyond 130E at 11N. Cloudiness and patchy rain exist along and up to 400 miles northwest of this boundary. A surface trough curves northeastward between Chuuk and Guam from 2N146E to 11N150E. Another surface trough curves west-northwestward from 1N142E to 5N136E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near these two features south of a line from 5N130E to 5N141E to 8N143E to 8N149E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers east of Majuro between 4N and 8N east of 172E and north of Kosrae between 6N and 8N from 160E to 168E.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:08 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:30 PM	4:55 AM
Wednesday	5:32 PM	5:51 AM
Thursday	6:34 PM	6:44 AM
Friday	7:35 PM	7:34 AM
Saturday	8:35 PM	8:21 AM

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS  
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS  
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI  
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE  
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN  
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, 4, 5, 6	DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)				OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily	OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX	OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only	CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN	OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China  
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Business

## AP-GfK poll: Opposition to health care law eases

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—As lawmakers shaken by the shooting of a colleague return to the health care debate, an Associated Press-GfK poll finds raw feelings over President Barack Obama's overhaul have subsided.

Ahead of a vote on repeal in the GOP-led House this week, strong opposition to the law stands at 30

percent, close to the lowest level registered in AP-GfK surveys dating to September 2009.

The nation is divided over the law, but the strength and intensity of the opposition appear diminished. The law expands coverage to more than 30 million uninsured, and would require, for the first time, that

most people in the United States carry health insurance.

The poll finds that 40 percent of those surveyed said they support the law, while 41 percent oppose it. Just after the November congressional elections, opposition stood at 47 percent and support was 38 percent.

As for repeal, only about one in four say they want to do away with the law completely. Among Republicans support for repeal has dropped sharply, from 61 percent after the elections to 49 percent now.

Also, 43 percent say they want the law changed so it does more to re-engineer the health care system. Fewer than one in five say it should be left as it is.

"Overall, it didn't go as far as I would have liked," said Joshua Smith, 46, a sales consultant to manufacturers who lives in Herndon, Va. "In a perfect world, I'd like to see them change it to make it more encompassing, but judging by how hard it was to get it passed, they had to take whatever they could get."

His extended family has benefited from the law. A sister-in-law in her early 20s, previously



In this March 27, 2010, file photo Virginia Paiva, of Providence, protests against the health care reform bill recently signed into law by President Barack Obama during a rally in front of the Statehouse in Providence, R.I.

uninsured, was able to get on her father's policy. "She's starting out as a real estate agent, and there's no health care for that," said Smith. The law allows young adults to stay on a parent's plan until they turn 26.

Congress stepped back last

week to honor victims of the rampage in Tucson, Ariz., that left Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, D-Ariz., facing a long and uncertain recovery from a bullet through her brain.

There's no evidence the gunman who targeted Giffords was

motivated by politics, but the aftermath left many people concerned about the venom in public life. A conservative Democrat, Giffords had been harshly criticized for voting in favor of the health overhaul, and won reelection by a narrow margin.

### YOUR OFFICE COACH

By **MARIE G. MCINTYRE**  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of *Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at <http://www.yourofficecoach.com>, or follow her on Twitter @officecoach.



## Language difficulty needs understanding

By **MARIE G. MCINTYRE**  
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**Q**uestion: Because my English is not very good, I have a hard time contributing in management team meetings. I often feel ignored because the other managers don't understand what I mean. I have a lot that I want to say, but my English always lets me down. When someone asks me a question, I worry that my accent will make me look stupid. If I am asked to repeat a comment, I get anxious and forget what I was trying to say. I feel that others think less of me because of my poor English, so meetings have become very stressful. Can you help?

**Answer:** Anyone who has ever had to communicate in an unfamiliar language will identify with your dilemma. The inability to share your knowledge and fully participate must be incredibly frustrating. One possible strategy is to simply ask your colleagues for help. For example: "Since English is not my native language, I sometimes find it difficult to express my ideas. I'm working to improve my English, but that's a slow process. I would appreciate your patience when we are discussing complex topics."

In response to such an appeal, most people will react sympathetically and encourage your participation. You may also find that openly discussing the issue actually reduces your anxiety. If writing is easier than speaking, you might also tell your colleagues that you will occasionally send them e-mails to clarify your views. And if planning time would help, try asking your boss for the agenda before each staff meeting. I would welcome additional suggestions from any readers who have successfully dealt with this challenge.

■ ■ ■

**Q:** Management allowed my boss to hire one of her relatives, even though this is against company policy. My manager and "Wendy" were not close before, but now they carpool, eat lunch together, and even plan joint family vacations. When I said that vacationing with an employee seemed inappropriate, my boss replied that it was none of my business. My concern is that Wendy is not being properly supervised. Her work is often incorrect, but my boss constantly makes excuses for her. Whenever I bring this up, my manager gets defensive, and we wind up having an argument.

**The executive who approved Wendy's hiring has left, so our current management may not be aware of their relationship. I don't know whether to report this policy violation or just ignore it and focus on my work.**

**A:** This is exactly why most companies don't allow managers to supervise relatives. Only you can decide whether ratting out your boss is worth the risk, but you do need to stop arguing with her. Since she is clearly never going to agree with you, continuing to share your opinions about this family relationship will only make matters worse.

If you have a helpful human resources department, you might ask your HR manager for an interpretation of the nepotism policy in this situation.

Just be sure that doing so won't jeopardize your own job security.

## Why supermarket stocks are getting squeezed

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Orange juice isn't the only thing at your supermarket that's been squeezed.

Rising food prices mean grocery store chains must absorb extra costs on items like meat, seafood, and produce, or they try to pass them along to customers. But many of those consumers are unemployed or have less money to spend, even on essentials. For now, the big chains are mostly choosing to absorb. As a result, profits are falling, and so are their stocks, making them one of the few dim lights in the market in 2011.

On Tuesday, Supervalu was the first of the grocers to report quarterly results, and the num-

bers for its fiscal third quarter were ominous: A loss of \$202 million, or 95 cents a share, compared with a profit of \$109 million, or 51 cents, in the same period a year earlier. The company, which operates Albertsons, Jewel-Osco, Acme and other chains, also cut its forecast for the year.

"This is going to be a challenging year going forward to manage inflation," Supervalu CEO Craig Herkert told analysts Tuesday. "It's just a fact and we believe these inflationary measures are going to impact consumers."

The result: "Investing in (grocers) now is certainly not for the faint of heart," says Philip Gor-

ham, an analyst at Morningstar.

The pressures supermarkets are dealing with are felt elsewhere, too. Soaring commodity prices help energy and agriculture companies that produce raw materials. But there are plenty of losers from the commodity boom stuck trying to pass on higher costs to customers whose wages are not rising as quickly. Evidence of that came in the government's inflation report on Friday. The Consumer Price Index rose 0.5 percent in December, the largest increase in 18 months. Most of that was due to higher gasoline prices. Food prices increased just 0.1 percent, suggesting grocers still aren't passing along

higher costs on most items.

Forty million Americans now rely on food stamps, up 50 percent from four years ago, and the average price of gas now costs 12 percent more than it did at this time last year. That's one reason why middle and lower income consumers are increasingly going to supercenters that offer less selection but cheaper prices than traditional grocery stores. Grocery sales at stores like Walmart, Target, and Costco grew at a rate of 10 percent a year over the past five years, according to Packaged Facts, a market research firm. Sales at traditional grocery stores are growing closer to 4 percent.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### Trans-Alaska pipeline remains shut down over leak

**ANCHORAGE, Alaska** (AP)—The 800-mile trans-Alaska pipeline remains shut down as repair work continued to fix a leak. The pipeline was shut down early Saturday to install a bypass pipe around the leak. The shutdown was only expected to last 36 hours, but the restart now is expected to take place early Monday. Workers are installing a 157-foot pipe around the leak discovered more than a week ago at a booster pump at a station on the North Slope. Alyeska Pipeline Service Co. operates the pipe-

line and says sealing and draining the pipe is taking longer than expected.

#### Security breach closes NJ airport checkpoint

**NEWARK, N.J.** (AP)—A security checkpoint at New Jersey's Newark Liberty International Airport has been briefly shut down because a prohibited item was found in a bag. Transportation Security Administration spokesman Nico Melendez says the item was found Sunday afternoon at a checkpoint in Terminal C, one of the airport's three major terminals. He says he doesn't know what the item was. But he says there didn't ap-

pear to be any malicious intent by the person who had it. The checkpoint reopened 45 minutes later. Authorities say the closure didn't cause any major delays or problems at the airport, one of the nation's busiest. Last month, a computer monitor checked as baggage caused a security scare at the airport and prompted officials to shut part of Terminal A for an hour as a precaution.

#### US pomp meant to improve tone of China relations

**BEIJING** (AP)—Chinese leader Hu Jintao is being feted in Washington this week with a

lavish state banquet at the White House and other pomp usually reserved for close friends and allies—all intended to improve the tone of relations between a risen, more assertive and prosperous China and a U.S. superpower in a tenuous economic recovery. The shaky trust between the United States and China has been eroding recently because of an array of issues—currency policies and trade barriers, nuclear proliferation and North Korea—and both sides seem to recognize the need to recalibrate relations. The U.S. is one of China's biggest markets, with \$380 billion in annual trade largely in Beijing's favor.



## Nation

## Rep. Gabrielle Giffords condition improves

**TUCSON, Ariz.** (AP)—In yet another sign of significant recovery during a remarkable week, the gravely wounded U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords was upgraded from critical to serious condition Sunday after a procedure to remove her from a ventilator was successful.

Doctors have been positive, and at time almost giddy, in describing her progress since she was shot point blank in the head Jan. 8.

Giffords responded from the moment she arrived at the emer-

gency room, at first just squeezing a doctor's hand. Then she raised two fingers. She opened her unbandaged eye shortly after President Barack Obama's bedside visit Wednesday. Then, more milestones - which doctors said were all indicative of higher cognitive function - were achieved, all with her husband, astronaut Mark Kelly, at her side.

Kelly asked her to give him a thumbs-up if she could hear him. She did more than that. She slowly raised her left arm. By the end of the week, she had

moved her legs and arms.

At the hospital, more than 100 people were gathered amid the sea of get-well balloons and cards when the University of Arizona put out a statement upgrading her condition.

"Oh, that's great news," said Jean Emrick, a 50-year resident of Tucson, as a violinist played in the background.

Her eyes watering, Emrick said: "Tucson is such a special place and she represents what's the best of southern Arizona."

As night fell, candles at the

makeshift memorial began to flicker. A mariachi band played the "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Doctors decided to upgrade her condition because the tracheotomy done a day earlier was uneventful, hospital spokeswoman Katie Riley said. A feeding tube was also put in Saturday, and doctors speculat-

ed that they might soon know if she could speak.

Few people survive a bullet to the brain—just 10 percent—and some who do end up in a vegetative state. It is even more rare for people with gunshot wounds to the head to regain all of their abilities, and doctors have cautioned that

the full extent of Giffords' recovery remains uncertain.

Giffords and 18 others were shot when a gunman opened fire at a meet-and-greet she was hosting outside a supermarket in her own hometown. Six people died, including Giffords' popular community outreach director, Gabe Zimmerman.

## Nation ponders King in wake of Arizona shootings

**ATLANTA** (AP)—The federal holiday honoring Martin Luther King Jr. has taken on added meaning for most Americans this year, as they try to make sense of the violence in Arizona that left six people dead and a member of Congress fighting for her life.

A state that once resisted the notion of a federal King holiday—and last year was the setting for a sharp-tongued debate on immigration—now finds itself in search of solace after the Jan. 8 attack on Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and the throng of people around her outside a grocery store in Tucson. The balm of choice is King, a pacifist Southern preacher whose own life was cut short by gun violence.

"Dr. King's message was about inclusion and the recognition of human dignity, of human rights and making sure that all

of our voices are heard," said Imani Perry, an African-American studies professor at Princeton University. "I hope people in Arizona, in particular, embrace that part of his message. The politics in Arizona recently have often seemed to revolve around excluding people."

Monday marks the 25th federal observance of the birth of King, whose words were often met with hate and resistance during one of the nation's most turbulent and transformative eras. Today, King is one of the country's most celebrated citizens and the only one to be honored with a national holiday who did not serve as a U.S. president.

"So little of his real politics show up in these annual commemorations," said Morgan State University professor Jared Ball. "Instead of actually read-

ing what he wrote or listening to what he said, we pick catchphrases and throw his name around. We all feel for the tragic incident that took place in Arizona, but this is happening to people all over the world every day in one form or another."

Many use the King holiday to celebrate King's life and struggle for human rights. Some choose to honor King by following the Baptist preacher's example of service to their fellow man. For others, the holiday is equal to Presidents' or Columbus Day: Just an excuse for a long weekend, to take a short vacation or do nothing.

Martin Luther King III, head of The King Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, said the Arizona tragedy is a grim reminder that the country has not yet achieved his father's dream of a peaceful society.



Becky Chowning of Louisville, Ky., places a rose at a makeshift memorial outside the Safeway grocery store in Tucson, Ariz. where the Jan. 8 mass shooting took place, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011.

## Greeley school board member blasts MLK Day

**GREELEY, Colo.** (AP)—A local school board member and radio station owner has come under fire for airing an editorial denouncing the holiday honoring slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The broadcaster remains unrepentant and defiant in the wake of community outcry.

Brett Reese is airing the editorial four times daily—up from two—on his station KELS-FM 104.7. He is unapologetic that portions of the editorial that call King a "plastic god," a "sexual degenerate," and "an America hating communist" appear verbatim on a website with links to a white supremacist group.

"Facts are facts, truth is truth," he said, adding that he might preempt other programming to air the editorial round the clock. The 40-year-old former carpenter claims he helped build houses for Habitat for Humanity in the Mississippi Delta and once dated an African American woman. He insists he's not racist.

The Mountain States Anti-Defamation League has asked Reese to stop broadcasting the editorial. The school board passed a resolution last week supporting the holiday and calling the editorial "inflammatory

and detrimental to our district and community." The vote came after Reese walked out of the meeting.

"Timed as they are, Mr. Reese's words demean the existence of the Martin Luther King Holiday and its honoring of not just Reverend King but of his messages of equal rights, peaceful demonstration, civility and respect," the board said in its resolution.

Mayor Tom Norton, a former state legislator, said Reese's views don't represent Greeley, which holds an annual MLK Day March and celebration. "I find it difficult to figure out

where he's coming from," Norton said.

Reese said some advertisers have departed the low-power FM station, which he has owned since 2000, over the editorial. But he said he is financially able to survive indefinitely without sponsors. He said he's received death threats.

He also said that he's not trying to become a lightning rod for debate over the holiday, which was controversial in some states at its inception. "That's not what my push is. I think it's important for people to discuss any issue openly, freely and without being assassinated or bankrupted."



Brett Reese is pictured at the controls in the studio of his radio station in Greeley, Colo., on Jan. 14, 2011.

## ACROSS THE NATION

## Young AZ victim's dad: Boston girl received organs

**BOSTON** (AP)—The father of the youngest victim of the Arizona massacre says some of her organs have been donated to a young girl in the Boston area. John Green tells The Boston Globe in Sunday's edition that he received a phone call about the transplant, but he doesn't know any other details about the donation. He says the call "really lifted" his spirit, and he and his wife are proud parents once again of their daughter, "who has done another amazing thing." Nine-year-old Christina Taylor Green was born Sept. 11, 2001. She had just been elected to her Tucson school's student council, which is why she went to see Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. A spokesman for the New England Organ Bank says he can't comment on donations. The Arizona Republic reported Friday that Tucson's bishop told the crowd at Christina's funeral that her organs had been donated.

## Police arrest suspect in NJ officer fatal shooting

**LAKEWOOD, N.J.** (AP)—A frenzied manhunt for a suspected cop killer ended early Sunday morning in the bedroom of a Camden apartment, where a SWAT team arrested the 19-year-old suspect without incident. Just over 38 hours after Lakewood Patrolman Christopher Matlosz was gunned down behind the wheel of his patrol car, a 15-member task force of State Police and U.S. Marshals officers surrounded an apartment where a tipster told police they could find the suspect, Jahmell W. Crockam. Ten of the officers raced into the apartment at about 6:30 a.m. and quickly arrested Crockam, who did not put up any resistance. He did not seem surprised that authorities had tracked him down, Cetnar said. Ocean County Prosecutor Marlene

Lynch Ford said detectives got information that Crockam had fled to Camden and was hiding in a unit of the Crestbury Apartments on South 8th Street.

## 3 killed in Pacific Coast Highway crash identified

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Three people killed in a violent 10-vehicle pileup on the Pacific Coast Highway in Orange County have been identified. Newport Beach police Lt. Bill Hartford said Sunday that the famed roadway was reopened around midnight, about 10 hours after the collision apparently triggered by a Ford Taurus going more than 100 miles an hour. The Orange County coroner says the driver of the Taurus, 27-year-old Julia Allen, of Newport Beach, was killed. Witnesses say her car was airborne when it collided with a Toyota Tacoma pickup. Killed in the pickup were 49-year-old Christopher De La Cruz, of Laguna Niguel; and 69-year-old Linda Burnett, of Santa Ana. Three other people were taken to hospitals with injuries, including a motorcycle rider who is in critical condition.

## 4 dead of apparent carbon monoxide poisoning in CA

**OAKHURST, Calif.** (AP)—Authorities says four people, including two children, have been found dead of apparent carbon monoxide poisoning in a house in California. Madera County sheriff's spokeswoman Erica Stuart says deputies on Sunday afternoon found the bodies of a 60-year-old woman, a 35-year old male, and two girls, ages 8 and 10. Stuart says the family was using a gas-power generator to provide power and heat after electricity to the Oakhurst home had been shut off. One person living in the house, a 27-year-old woman, survived. The names of the deceased were not immediately released.



# Asia

## 11 fishermen missing in bad Philippine weather

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—At least 11 fishermen were missing after fierce winds and waves overturned their boats off the eastern Philippines as bad weather, which has claimed 51

lives in recent weeks, continued to wreak havoc in parts of the country, officials said Sunday.

A search was under way for the fishermen from the town of Pandan in Catanduanes province who sailed out to sea late Saturday despite warnings of bad weather, Mayor Resty de Quiroz said.

Twenty domestic flights to and from the country's eastern and central region were canceled or diverted Sunday due to strong rain and wind set off by a cold front, which forecasters expect will continue to affect the country's weather until early March.

De Quiroz said the fishermen

sailed out to sea after it calmed following weeks of pounding rain, but the weather suddenly turned nasty, overturning or damaging their boats.

"We warned them of the bad weather but we know their families won't eat if they don't set out to sea," said Benito Ramos, who heads the government's disaster-response agency.

About 1.5 million people have been affected by four weeks of intermittent heavy rains, which caused flooding and landslides and left 51 dead in 16 provinces. More than

half a million people have been provided food packs and medicine in emergency shelters or in isolated rural communities, Ramos said.

President Benigno Aquino III has said he is considering a total ban on logging in the country after blaming the recent flooding on illegal loggers.

After a visit to flood-hit Southern Leyte and Agusan del Norte provinces last week, Aquino expressed exasperation that illegal logging has continued in those regions despite a long government crackdown.



Sri Lankan children look out of their house submerged in Kartivu, about 220 kilometers (137 miles) east of Colombo, Sri Lanka, Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011.

## UN to call for aid to help Sri Lanka flood victims

**KARAITHIVU, Sri Lanka (AP)**—The United Nations said it will appeal for emergency flood aid for Sri Lanka, where 38 people have died, hundreds of thousands are homeless and vast rice fields ready to be harvested are now under water.

The flooding has disrupted the livelihoods of many in the eastern region hardest hit after the heavy rains. The U.N. will issue an appeal in the coming days for money to help replant the fields and compensate people affected, U.N. Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator Neil Buhne said in a statement late Friday.

"I urge donors to generously support priority needs such as mosquito nets, clean water and food," he said.

U.S. Ambassador Patricia A. Butenis said Saturday

that America is providing Sri Lanka with \$300,000 in flood assistance. The U.S. has given boats to evacuate those marooned and donated bottled water, cooking materials and tarps, the embassy said.

Eleven more people were reported dead Saturday, raising the death toll to 38 with four others missing and 51 injured, Pradeep Kodippili of the Disaster Management Center said. The biggest number of deaths—18—were recorded in Batticaloa district.

Nearly 390,000 remain homeless and 3,744 houses have been totally destroyed, he said.

As floodwaters slowly receded in the worst-hit Eastern Province, some people in Karaitivu village in eastern Ampara district came out and cleaned their houses for rituals marking

the ethnic Tamils' traditional harvest festival.

Sellai Rasiah, a community leader in Karaitivu, said villagers affected by the devastating 2004 tsunami have lost most of their belongings and would again have to start anew. Schoolchildren have lost their books and clothes, he said.

The mud-walled hut with a coconut palm roof where Muttumari Jegathisvaran, a 25-year-old laborer, lived was collapsed. All his belongings had been flushed away and the banana trees and vegetable plants in his garden were dead and discolored.

"There is no festival for us. I have no work, no place to live," he said.

The government has estimated the flood losses at \$500 million.

## Attacks down almost 20 percent in Pakistan

**ISLAMABAD (AP)**—The number of suicide bombings and other attacks in Pakistan declined nearly 20 percent last year as a result of Pakistani military operations, better surveillance by law enforcement agencies and the death of key militants in U.S. drone strikes, a think tank said Sunday.

But the militant threat remains dire, and the Pakistani government has yet to develop a comprehensive policy to eradicate Islamist militants who continue to plague the country, warned the Pak Institute for Peace Studies.

"Better coordination among intelligence agencies, capacity building of law enforcement agencies, curbs on terrorism financing and, most importantly, adequate measures to prevent banned militant groups from operating across the country remained persistently lacking," said a new report by the group.

Pakistan's anti-terror efforts are a key focus of the Obama administration, which wants the country to do more to target Taliban militants who regularly launch attacks against U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

The number of militant, insurgent and sectarian-related attacks in Pakistan declined

from 2,586 in 2009 to 2,113 last year. But the number of people killed in attacks only dropped about 3.5 percent, from 3,021 to 2,913.

Despite the general decline, attacks roughly tripled last year in Pakistan's two largest cities, said the report, a sign that militants are having greater success exporting the fight far from their northwest heartland along the Afghan border.

In Karachi, a teeming city of some 16 million that has a long history of religious, political and ethnic violence, 93 attacks killed 233 people last year, up from 24 attacks that killed 65 in 2009.

Pakistan's cultural capital, Lahore, witnessed 44 attacks last year compared to 11 in 2009. But there were fewer casualties in Punjab province, where Lahore is the capital, because the militants carried out a smaller number of suicide attacks in crowded places.

Across the country, suicide attacks fell 22 percent, from 87 in 2009 to 68 last year, according to the report.

The Pakistani military has launched a series of operations against militants in the northwest. The campaigns have dealt a serious blow but have failed to achieve sustainable peace "due

to the less than impressive performance of a weak political administration, which is beset by chronic challenges of poor governance," said the report.

The U.S. also has concerns about Pakistan's ability to transition to effective hold and build efforts in cleared areas, according to a White House progress report drafted last year.

"This failure results in short-lived military gains that allow militants to regroup in these areas," said the report.

U.S. officials have also expressed frustration with Pakistan's unwillingness to launch an offensive in North Waziristan, part of the country's lawless tribal region that hosts a large number of militants who wage attacks in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani army says its troops are stretched too thin by other operations in the tribal region. But many analysts believe the military is reluctant to cross militants with whom it has historical ties and could be useful allies in Afghanistan after foreign troops withdraw.

The U.S. has responded by more than doubling the number of drone strikes in the tribal region. There were close to 120 such strikes in 2010, most of which occurred in North Waziristan.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Rural Australian towns brace for high river peaks

**MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)**—Record floods were predicted in several rural Australian communities Monday as rivers swollen from upstream rain flowed heavily into southern states. Officials expected floodwaters to drown out highways and isolate dozens of towns in northeastern Victoria state in some of the worst flooding in a century. State Emergency Services spokeswoman Natasha Duckett warned that the town of Horsham could face a major flood during Monday's expected peak of the Wimmera River, and electricity supplier Powercor was sandbagging its substation there to ensure it remained dry. Up to 500 properties in the town of about 14,000 people could be affected. More than 3,500 people have evacuated their homes in north-central Victoria state, with 43 towns and 1,500 properties already affected by rising waters.

#### ASEAN urges lifting of sanctions on Myanmar

**LOMBOK ISLAND, Indonesia (AP)**—Foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations appealed Sunday for the lifting of international sanctions against Myanmar, which held its first elections in two decades in November. Indonesian Foreign Minister Marty Natalegawa said ASEAN will also push for reconciliation between Myanmar's military-controlled government and democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi, who was released from years of house arrest days after the elections. "We have the same view on the immediate or early removal or easing of sanctions imposed by some countries against Myanmar," Natalegawa said on the sidelines of a meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers on the resort island of Lombok. Natalegawa said the international community should respond positively to the recent developments in Myanmar to ensure that economic development can take place in the country.



A Pakistani cameraman films burning oil tankers after gunmen attacked a terminal in Dera Murad Jamali southwest Pakistan, Saturday, Jan. 15, 2011.



## World

# 'Baby Doc' Duvalier back in Haiti after long exile

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti** (AP)—Former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier returned Sunday to Haiti after nearly 25 years in exile, a surprise and perplexing move that comes as his country struggles with a political crisis and the stalled effort to recover from last year's devastating earthquake.

Duvalier, wearing a dark suit and tie, arrived on an Air France jet to hugs from supporters at the Port-au-Prince airport. He was calm as he was led into the immigration office and did not immediately make a statement to a waiting crowd of journalists.

Haitians danced in the streets to celebrate the overthrow of Duvalier back in 1986, heckling the tubby, boyish tyrant as he was driven to the airport in a black limousine and flown into exile in France. Most Haitians hoped the rapacious strongman known as "Baby Doc" had left for good, closing a dark chapter



of terror and repression that began under his late father, François "Papa Doc" Duvalier.

But a handful of loyalists have been campaigning to bring Duvalier home from exile in France, launching a foundation to improve the dictatorship's image and reviving Duvalier's political party in the hopes that one day he can return to power democratically.

The Duvaliers tortured and killed their political opponents, ruling in an atmosphere of fear and repression ensured by the bloody Tonton Macoute secret police.

The end of his reign was followed by a period known as *deshoukaj* or "uprooting" in which Haitians carried out reprisals against Macoutes and regime loyalists, tearing their

houses to the ground.

In the fall of 2007, President René Preval told reporters that Duvalier could return to Haiti but would face justice for the deaths of thousands of people and the theft of millions of dollars.

His return Sunday comes as the country struggles to work through a dire political crisis following the problematic Nov. 28 first-round presidential election.

Three candidates want to go onto a second round. The Organization of American States sent in a team of experts to resolve the deadlock, recommending that Preval's candidate be excluded. Preval was reportedly not pleased with the report. OAS Secretary-General José Miguel Insulza was scheduled to be in Port-au-Prince to meet with Preval on Monday.

Haiti's former dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, center, waves to supporters from a hotel balcony after his arrival in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Sunday Jan. 16, 2011.

AP

## Gunbattles, food shortages temper Tunisians' joy

**TUNIS, Tunisia** (AP)—Major gunbattles erupted outside the palace of Tunisia's deposed president, in the center of the capital, in front of the main opposition party headquarters and elsewhere on Sunday as authorities struggled to restore order and the world waited to see if the North African nation would continue its first steps away from autocratic rule.

Police arrested dozens of people, including the top presidential security chief, as tensions appeared to mount between Tunisians buoyant over Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's departure and loyalists in danger of losing major perks.

There were cheers and smiles in much of Tunis, the capital, as residents tore down the massive portraits of Ben Ali, some of them several stories high, that hung from lampposts and billboards and were omnipresent during his 23-year reign.

Prime Minister Mohamed

Ghannouchi said on state TV that a new national unity government will "most certainly" be announced Monday "to open a new page in the history of Tunisia."

There are three legal opposition parties that could be included in the government Ghannouchi has been directed to form by the interim president, Fouad Mebazaa. Negotiations are advanced, Ghannouchi said Sunday night.

Worries among Tunisians, however, grew with the violence and worsening shortages of essentials such as milk, bread and fresh fish.

"We're starting to feel it now," said Imed Jaound at the Tunis port, which has been closed since Friday, when Ben Ali fled to Saudi Arabia.

A gunbattle broke out around the presidential palace late Sunday afternoon in Carthage on the Mediterranean shore, about 15 kilometers (10 miles) north of Tunis. The army and members of the newly appointed

presidential guard fought off attacks from militias loyal to Ben Ali, said a member of the new presidential guard. Helicopters were surveying the zone.

The militias emerged from a forest to charge, the guard member said by telephone. He told The Associated Press the militia are "numerous" and are using various kinds of arms but gave no further details. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to be publicly named.

Residents of Carthage—a center of power in ancient times but now a Tunis suburb popular with tourists—said they have barricaded themselves inside their homes amid the shooting. Many soldiers were in the palace, but it was unclear whether any of the interim government's leaders were.

One Carthage resident said she saw four men in a taxi speed through a military checkpoint at the end of her street

and toward the palace nearby. Soldiers shot at the taxi and the men inside returned fire.

The resident, who asked not to be named because of security concerns, said her neighbors saw other armed men break through checkpoints in civilian cars. The gunbattle lasted about four hours before calm returned in the evening, she said.

Other gunfights broke out near the PDP opposition party headquarters and a two-hour-long gunbattle raged behind the Interior Ministry, long feared during Ben Ali's reign as a torture site. Residents of the city center heard constant volleys of gunfire throughout much of the afternoon; they were ordered to stay away from windows and keep their curtains closed.

The prime minister said Sunday night that police and the army have arrested numerous members of armed groups, without saying how many.

"The coming days will show



A torn banner of former Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is seen in the center of Tunis, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011.

AP

who is behind them," Ghannouchi said. He added that arms and documents have been seized from those arrested.

"We won't be tolerant towards these people," the prime minister said.

The security chief, Ali Serati, and his deputy were charged with a plot against state security, aggressive acts and for "provoking disorder, murder and pillaging," the TAP state news agency reported.

Police stopped vehicles as the city remained under a state of emergency. More than 50 people were arrested on suspicion of using ambulances, rental cars and government vehicles for random shootings, a police official told The Associated Press.

A crowd of 200 in Tunis cheered one such arrest Sunday.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Housing sought for survivors of deadly mudslides

**TERESOPOLIS, Brazil** (AP)—Days after mudslides wiped out whole neighborhoods, many residents continued to live in homes in threatened areas, unwilling to join the thousands crowded into shelters despite the ever-present danger to their lives. Survivors who lost everything and those clinging to homes on unstable ground face an uncertain future as they try to rebuild lives torn apart by the landslides that struck mountain towns outside Rio de Janeiro and killed at least 626—a death

toll that rises every day as more bodies are pulled from the mud. Municipal, state and federal officials were responding Sunday, setting up a center to register missing persons; distributing 35,000 free cell phones donated by a telecommunications company; and announcing immediate plans to relocate some 2,500 people housed at a packed gymnasium to 18 smaller, better organized shelters at churches, warehouses and other spaces.

#### Egypt church shooting attacker gets death sentence

**CAIRO** (AP)—An Egyptian

court on Sunday convicted and sentenced to death a Muslim man for killing six Christians and a Muslim guard last year—the latest in a series of moves by authorities seeking to calm religious tensions following a massive suicide bombing outside a church two weeks ago. The violence has raised fears of a deepening and potentially explosive Muslim-Christian divide in this key U.S. ally, which is already beset by a widening income gap and frustration over government corruption and a lack of democratic reform. Sunday's hearing was held in the southern Egyptian

city of Qena, where the trial began 11 months ago, amid tight security, with hundreds of riot police sealing off roads leading to the courthouse.

#### First US ambassador in 5 years arrives in Syria

**BEIRUT** (AP)—The first American ambassador to Syria since 2005 arrived in Damascus on Sunday at a time of regional turmoil and with Syrian-U.S. relations still mired in mutual distrust. Few expect immediate changes, but having career diplomat Robert Ford in Damascus offers Washington a better glimpse into Syria at a time of

rising tensions—particularly in neighboring Lebanon, where the Western-backed government collapsed last week. President Barack Obama's administration has argued that returning an ambassador to Damascus would help persuade Syria to change its policies regarding Lebanon, Israel and Iraq and end its support for extremist groups.

#### Daughter succeeds dad at French far-right party

**TOURS, France** (AP)—France's far-right National Front party elected the daughter of its founder, Jean-Marie Le

Pen, as its new leader Sunday, who says she wants to broaden the appeal of a party known best for its anti-immigration, anti-Islam platform. Le Pen, who has been convicted for minimizing the Holocaust, left the leadership of the party he created 38 years ago by dropping an anti-Semitic reference about a journalist at a weekend party gathering. Marine Le Pen, 42, won slightly more than two-thirds of the vote in an election at a National Front convention in the central city of Tours—easily beating the other candidate, longtime party No. 2 Bruno Gollnisch.



# Focus

If 2011 is hinting at a national recovery, there is little sign of it in statehouses across the country. States that already have raided their reserve funds, relied on borrowing or accounting gimmicks, and imposed deep cuts on schools, parks and public transit systems no longer can protect key services in the face of another round of multibillion dollar deficits.

As governors roll out their budget proposals and legislatures convene this month, they do so amid a sputtering economic recovery and predictions of slow growth for years to come. State and local governments face lackluster revenue projections, worries from Wall Street over looming debt and the end of federal stimulus spending.

In the first weeks of 2011, Republican and Democratic governors alike have begun detailing across-the-board pain for education, health care, transportation, public safety and other programs. Some say the year of reckoning for state and local governments is at hand, with calls for structural changes that could radically shift expectations of what services government provides.

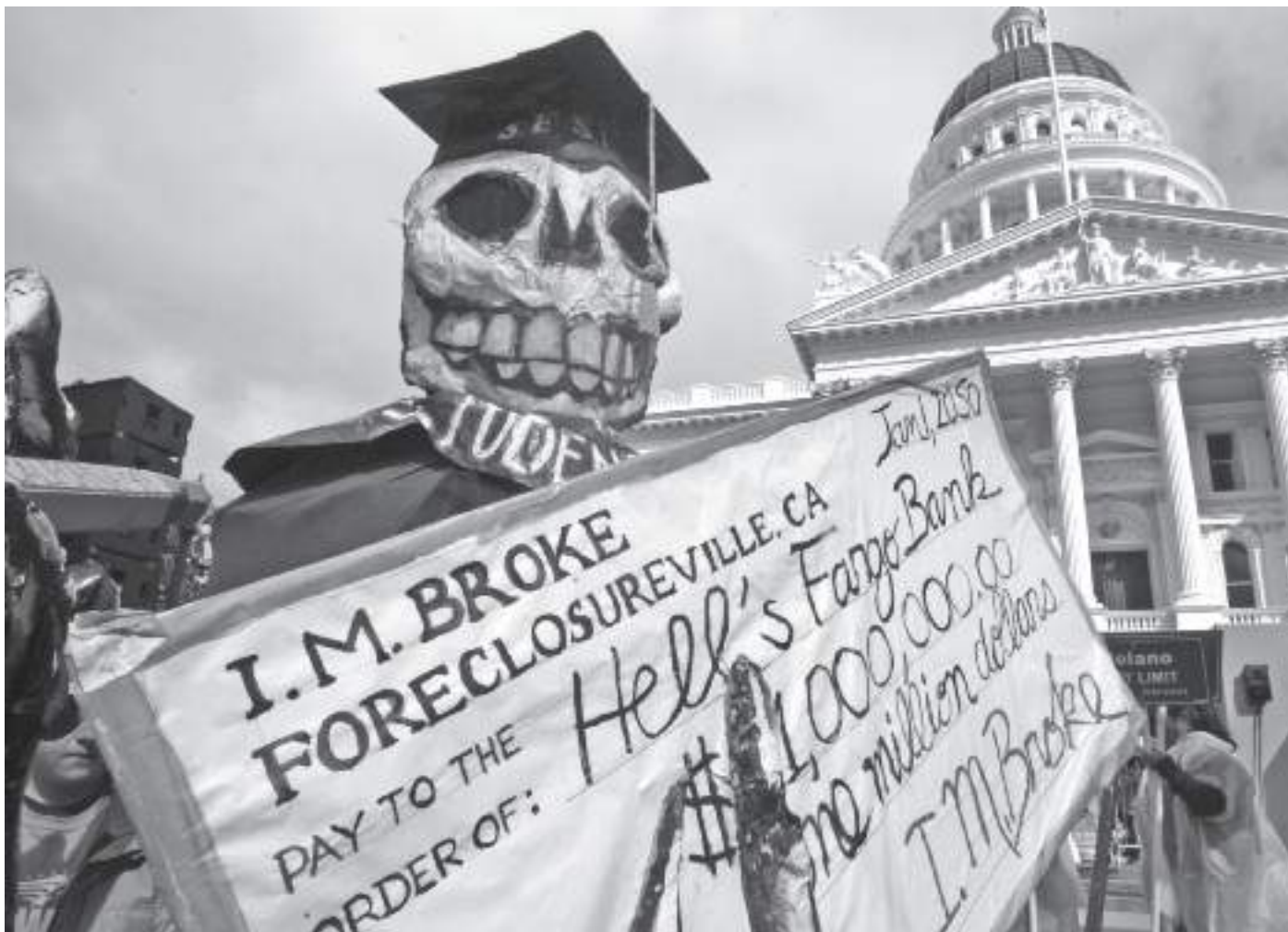
Many believe the months ahead will be the most challenging in memory, with consequences for millions who depend on government funding.

"We need to send a message to the governor: We're real, and we depend on all these services," said Sergio Garibay, a 41-year-old Southern California resident who relies on state disability payments and recently protested deep cuts to Medi-Cal programs proposed by California Gov. Jerry Brown. "There are other alternatives to the budget. Why don't we tax the rich, these corporations?"

In releasing his budget proposal, Brown told California lawmakers "the year ahead will demand courage and sacrifice" as the state faces a deficit projected to hit \$25.4 billion over the next 18 months. His proposal combines spending cuts to Medi-Cal, in-home services for the elderly and higher education with a five-year extension of income, sales and vehicle taxes.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo proposed eliminating 20 percent of state agencies by combining duties, such as merging the Insurance Department, Banking Department and the Consumer Protection Board into the Department of Financial Regulation. It's part of "radical reform" to pull his state out of its fiscal crisis. And Gov. Chris Christie in New Jersey skipped a \$3.1 billion payment to the state's pension system in a push to cut benefits for public workers, while proposing higher employee contributions and a boost in the retirement age from 62 to 65.

In Illinois, lawmakers voted for a dramatic 66 percent hike in personal income tax, from 3 percent to 5 percent, in a bid



In this April 21, 2010 file photo, a demonstrator dressed as a "skeleton student" is seen at a rally calling for greater investment in public services, at the Capitol in Sacramento, Calif. Gov. California is just one of many states facing a year of reckoning as they deal with multi-billion dollar budget deficits.

## 2011 looming as the TOUGHEST YEAR yet for state budgets

By JUDY LIN and SHANNON McCaffrey  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

to resolve a \$15 billion deficit, which amounts to more than half of the state's entire general fund. The tax increase will be coupled with strict 2 percent limits on spending growth.

"It's important for their state government not to be a fiscal basket case," Gov. Pat Quinn in defending the major tax hike.

And on and on it goes:

■ In oil-rich Texas, where education and social service spending is relatively low and Republican Gov. Rick Perry has railed against government spending, hard times are looming. The shortfall is projected to be between \$15 billion and \$27 billion over the coming two-year budget cycle.

■ In South Carolina, outgoing Gov. Mark Sanford has proposed a spending plan that would end funding for museum and arts programs, slash college funding and give many state employees a 5 percent pay cut.

■ In Georgia, deep cuts appear to await the state's popular HOPE scholarship program

that provides public college tuition to students who earn good grades. Rising tuition and enrollment have outpaced the lottery revenues that fund the program and Gov. Nathan Deal has not proposed any additional state money to bail it out.

Even as tax revenue in many states shows signs of a rebound, states are expected to collect 6.5 percent less than they did in 2008, according to the National Association of State Budget Officers.

And any revenue gains could be more than offset by the expected loss of federal stimulus money. Most of the \$814 billion stimulus program was designed to help states provide essential services and give a boost to the economy, but will start to run out this summer. A new round of stimulus funding is unlikely with Republicans controlling one house of Congress. Top GOP lawmakers say they will try to provide states with relief by reducing mandated programs, not by giving them more money.

"States came into this recession

with relatively large rainy day funds. Now that states have done the accounting gimmicks and the relatively easier stuff, each year gets harder and harder because those one-time things are gone," said Nicholas Johnson, director of the state fiscal project at the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, a think tank in Washington, D.C.

Despite lower tax revenue since the recession began, the level of service expected from state and local governments remains, often creating a disconnect between public perception and the reality of the fiscal crisis confronting elected officials.

Public schools face rising enrollments, more people are seeking government health care because they have lost jobs or their employers have dropped coverage, and millions of those thrown out of work are receiving unemployment checks.

One possible solution is revising tax structures, even with an anti-tax mood persisting across much of the nation.

In Georgia, some lawmakers are considering a 4 percent state sales tax on groceries and boosting the tax on cigarettes as part of an overhaul of the state's outdated tax code. The increases would be paired with reductions in the personal and corporate income taxes.

But any proposal for tax increases will run into opposition from Republicans, who were swept into office in large numbers last fall on a message of reducing the size and reach of government.

Republicans picked up 690 state legislative seats Nov. 2—the largest shift since 1966, according to data compiled by the national legislative group. The GOP now controls both chambers of the state legislature as well as the governorship in 21 states.

"When you've got an unemployment rate at 10 percent, I don't think that's a good time for us to tell Georgians that we need more of their money," Georgia House Speaker David Ralston

said. "I'm going to resist that again this year."

As states struggle to balance their books, Wall Street is watching rising debt burdens, although analysts so far have not sounded many alarms. Federal law does not allow states to file for bankruptcy protection, but states can default on their debt if their financial condition worsens considerably.

That move is extremely rare. Arkansas was the last state to default on its debt payments, a move it took during the Great Depression. Moody's predicts that no state government will default on its debt in 2011.

Moody's Managing Director, Naomi Richman, said states generally borrow for long-term infrastructure projects. They don't usually borrow to pay debt and fund operating budgets. Those that have, including California, Illinois and Arizona, already have been penalized with low credit ratings, which increases their borrowing costs.

It's possible, however, that more cash-strapped cities and counties could seek bailouts from states, as Harrisburg sought help from the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

"I think you're more likely to see it cascade up, rather than down," said Steve Malanga, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, during a discussion about state budgets at George Mason University.

Kail Padgett, an economist with the nonpartisan, nonprofit Tax Foundation, said the states with the greatest concerns about their fiscal health are those with costly public employee pensions that are underfunded.

Many public pension systems use overly optimistic rates of return and do not provide a true, long-term cost to taxpayers. Padgett cited a recent study by the Pew Center on the States that found states face a \$1 trillion funding shortfall in public-sector retirement benefits, but said that likely underestimate the problem.

"The long-term outlook is quite bad," Padgett said unless states begin to make pension reforms.

Matt Hanson, 50, a civil engineer who has worked for California's transportation department for 22 years, said he understands that public pension systems could use adjustments but he believes pensions are fundamentally sound. For example, he said he's open to contributing more to cover retiree health care costs, which have been rising.

"If there's some shared pain that has to be felt than I want it to be constructive," Hanson said. "There's a difference between going out for a run and feeling pain right after—at least you'll be in better shape in the long run, rather than hitting your hand with a hammer. Pain for pain's sake doesn't make a lot of sense."

McCaffrey reported from Atlanta. Associated Press writer Robert Jablon in Los Angeles contributed to this report.



## Overdrive

## 2011 Acura TSX Sport Wagon adds hip touch to family life

By SUSAN CARPENTER  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Wagons are typically a practical purchase—an investment often dictated by a change in life circumstance. In other words, babies.

As a whole, wagons represent a settling down, a resignation of youth, a reluctant embrace of responsibility as the disposable income once spent on Lady Gaga downloads and sushi dinners yields to collapsible strollers and difficult-to-install car seats, sippy cups and their inevitable spills.

But the 2011 Acura TSX Sport Wagon presents hope. It's a fun-to-drive family car that could inspire drivers to temporarily turn around their "Baby on Board" signs and floor it as they exit the day-care parking lot and head to work.

Available since December, the TSX Sport Wagon marks Acura's entry into the premium wagon segment. Acura predicts the category will grow 50 percent in the next five years as Generation Y-ers say their "I do's" and settle down. The automaker also says Gen Y, unlike prior generations, demands the often-contradictory goals of fun and fuel economy along with increased utility.

Unlike the TSX sedan, which was introduced in 2003, overhauled for the 2009 model year and is now available as a six-cylinder, the TSX Sport Wagon is content to employ a four-cylinder, 2.4-liter engine with intelligent variable valve timing to increase its gas mileage. For the wagon, the engine was retuned, incorporating new technologies such as plateau honing of the cylinders to reduce fuel economy. The use of low-viscosity engine oil also improves mileage.

The wagon is aerodynamically fit, with features that include low-friction hub bearings and an underbody that is covered to reduce fuel-sapping drag.

## 2011 Toyota Sienna aspires to, and achieves, luxury

By TOM INCANTALUPO  
NEWSDAY

There's no such thing as a Lexus minivan, but if Toyota made one it could hardly have more features, ride better or have a more attractive and functional interior than the 2011 Sienna.

The third generation of Toyota's Sienna has been on sale since February and is available for the first time with a four-cylinder engine and a purportedly "sporty" version, known as SE, with a "sport-tuned" suspension and lower ride height. It's also the only minivan available with all-wheel drive. It is premium family transportation with much to like and little to fault.

I averaged 19.3 miles per gallon over a week with the tester—about midway between the government



2011 TSX Sport Wagon is a fun-to-drive family car that could inspire drivers to temporarily turn around their "Baby on Board" signs and floor it as they exit the day-care parking lot and head to work.

## NUTS &amp; BOLTS

**Base price:** \$30,960  
**Price as tested:** \$34,610  
**Powertrain:** 2.4-liter, DOHC, 16-valve, inline four-cylinder with variable valve timing, five-speed automatic with paddle shifters, front-wheel drive  
**Maximum horsepower:** 201 at 7,000 rpm  
**Maximum torque:** 170 pound-feet at 4,300-4,500 rpm  
**Wheelbase:** 106.4 inches  
**Overall length:** 189.2 inches  
**Curb weight:** 3,599 pounds  
**EPA fuel economy:** 22 mpg city/30 mpg highway  
**Final thoughts:** Unexpected fun

Together, they helped offset the Sport Wagon's 3 1/2-inch length increase from the sedan to give it best-in-class performance: 22 miles per gallon in the city and 30 mpg on the highway.

And Acura's done so without making the power delivery feel bland and as mushy as Gerber peas. With pedal pressed to metal, it was surprisingly responsive. Its 170 pound-feet of torque was crisp and satisfying throughout the power band, and its five-speed automatic transmission

more than ample to handle its modest 201 horsepower.

The Acura's main competitor is the Audi A4 Avant, which is all-wheel drive. Although the TSX Sport Wagon is front-wheel drive, I didn't find its handling to be at all lacking.

Instead of a manual transmission option, Acura has gone with easier-to-use, steering-wheel-mounted paddle shifters for drivers who want to imagine they've ditched the mom mobile and are helming a Lamborghini.

Its profile is wind-swept and muscular, with a long front end and windows that add to the fantasy. Each side's three windows diminish in size from front to back, as if the wind were making them evaporate. An Italian sports car it is not, though it does handle like a far smaller vehicle, with a low and well-centered chassis and leather seats that are comfortable.

The TSX Sport Wagon seats five. Collapsing the backrests for the second row opens up 60.5 cubic feet of carrying space.

Its sporty, sloped rear window, however, prevents skyward stacking of Huggies boxes. Still, the only direct competitor that offers more cargo room is the Volvo V50.

Starting at \$30,960, the TSX Sport

city and highway estimates.

Although my tester had the basic suspension, handling is better than average for a seven- or eight-passenger minivan, inspiring confidence at legal and real-world highway speeds. The tester's 265-hp V-6 delivered plenty of power for quick acceleration and passing. Think twice about opting for the 187-hp four-cylinder engine in this 4,000-pound-plus vehicle, especially if you often take highway trips with heavy loads of passengers and cargo. It's tempting, though; the Environmental Protection Agency says it will get you 19 mpg city and 26 mpg on the highway—3 and 4 mpg more, respectively, than the six. Four-cylinder models aren't available with all-wheel drive.

Sun glare sometimes obscures the

gauges; the brakes (at least of the tester) had an uncomfortable amount of fade in stops from highway speeds.

Other changes for 2011 include a slight increase in width and a slight decrease in length. Wheelbase is unchanged; track is slightly wider. There are small decreases in second- and third-row seat minimum leg room, but plenty of room remains—and the second row is adjustable fore and aft. The third-row seats fold fairly easily into a well in the floor. When the seats are in use, that well and the rest of the space behind the third seat will hold a lot of cargo.

Noteworthy Sienna options include a rear camera with a 180-degree view; two sunroofs; and an entertainment system with a screen that can be split into two in case the kids can't agree on what to watch.

Wagon is available in two flavors, both of which are stocked with the usual base-line luxuries that should appeal to those who haven't had enough sleep. That includes, most notably, heated leather seats (along with memory settings for the driver), power moon roof, USB port, Bluetooth and a 360-watt stereo.

An extra \$3,650 buys a tech package that includes navigation, real-time traffic and weather reports, 15 gigabytes of music storage and a 460-watt surround-sound system to crank Arcade Fire until it's time to swap it for Dan Zanes.

My favorite feature of the up-sell is the power tailgate, which lifts the hatch with a touch of a button on the key fob and closes it with another button along the tailgate's bottom. That's an extremely useful feature for parents who lack enough arms.

The rear window screen is also a nice feature, shielding the prying eyes of competitive parents from noticing the nonorganic baby formula just purchased in bulk from Costco.

Both fun and utilitarian, the Acura TSX Sport Wagon cushions the unexpected lifestyle blows of new parenthood. It is a far cry from sacrifice to drive it.

The 2011 Sienna delivered disappointing results in the newly revised and tougher federal test for frontal crash protection—three out of five stars—because of "injuries" to a new and smaller female crash-test dummy in the passenger seat.

Yet, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety names the vehicle a "top safety pick," with "good" results in its frontal-, side- and rear-impact tests.

"Overall, we're pleased that the 2011 received a (top safety pick) from IIHS and are looking at ways to improve the small-frame dummy front passenger score," Toyota spokesman Wade Hoyt said in an e-mail.

J.D. Power and Associates says the Sienna has been "one of the best" in dependability over three years and in customer satisfaction in the first three months of ownership.

## Saving memory when disconnecting battery

By BRAD BERGHOLDT  
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

**QUESTION: Can I use my 12 volt power pack, via the cigarette-lighter socket, to supply power while I change batteries? If the lighter socket is key-activated, can I turn on the key while I change the battery?—Fred Gerbino**

**ANSWER:** Keeping a vehicle's memories intact during battery disconnection is highly advisable but not essential. In addition to the clock and radio settings, many vehicles also maintain memory for power-seat position, multiple driver entry and exit functions, and other operator preferences. Newer vehicles also maintain adaptive learning data for idle speed, engine and transmission performance tuning, as well as diagnostic trouble codes and test results for emission system monitoring.

Should all memories be lost due to a battery disconnection or discharge, the adaptive data and test results will be re-established automatically, perhaps within a few days. I should add that some vehicles are rather stubborn about re-establishing the emission-test results in a timely fashion, and incomplete test results can result in an emissions test deferral or failure. Re-entering clock and radio settings, seat positions and other operator preferences can be a nuisance.

If the audio system utilizes a security code, this may become the most challenging obstacle to overcome if the battery is disconnected or discharged and the security code is not available for reinsertion. Be sure an audio system security code, if used, is recorded in several places for future reference.

There are a variety of ways to maintain vehicle memories while the battery is disconnected. If the cigarette-lighter socket is active with the ignition switch in the "off" position, a portable power supply may be plugged in to maintain vehicle memories while the battery is disconnected. Inexpensive memory savers containing a household 9 volt battery may be plugged into the cigarette-lighter socket, if it's active. When using these, it's important to keep all doors closed and the hood light disconnected to avoid rapidly discharging the tiny battery.

Professional-grade memory savers often plug into the vehicle's data link connector, which is active at all times. A battery-jumper pack may also be connected to the battery's positive terminal and engine metal. This is sometimes a clumsy arrangement, as the battery-jumper pack can wiggle loose and increase the risk of an accidental terminal grounding, as I'll describe shortly. If a vehicle's cigarette lighter socket is not active with the ignition switch in the "off" position, this may be the simplest and most direct method to be used by a home mechanic. I would advise strongly against leaving the ignition switch on, as an accident with the cable terminals could result in significant and expensive vehicle damage.

When a battery-jumper pack is used as a memory saver, one must be very careful to not allow the disconnected positive battery cable terminal to touch vehicle metal or the negative terminal. Care must also be taken to avoid allowing the wrench you are using to release the cable terminal from touching the body or other metal items. I'd recommend wrapping a rag or towel around the positive cable terminal as soon as it is disconnected, and tuck the bundle out of the way with a small bungee cord.

*Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him e-mail at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.*



# Life & Style

## 'Social Network' friends Globes with 4 prizes

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.** (AP)—The Facebook tale "The Social Network" won top honors Sunday at the Golden Globes with four prizes, including best drama and director, solidifying its prospects as an Academy Awards favorite.

Winning the dramatic lead-acting prizes were Colin Firth for the British monarchy saga "The King's Speech" and Natalie Portman for the psychosexual thriller "Black Swan."

Lead-acting honors for the Globes' musical or comedy categories went to Annette Bening for the lesbian-family story "The Kids Are All Right" and Paul Giamatti for the curmudgeon tale "Barney's Version."

The boxing drama "The Fighter" earned both supporting actor Globes, for Christian Bale and Melissa Leo.

David Fincher, directing winner for "The Social Network," said he thought it was strange when "The Social Network" script came to him, since he usually makes dark character studies about misanthropes or films about serial killers. His films include the murder tales "Seven" and "Zodiac."

"I'm personally loath to acknowledge the kind of wonderful response this film has received

for fear of becoming addicted to it, so suffice it to say, it's been really nice," said Fincher, whose film also won the Globes for screenplay for Aaron Sorkin and musical score for Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross.

Sorkin, creator of TV's "The West Wing," had kind words for Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, played by Jesse Eisenberg in "The Social Network."

"Mark Zuckerberg, if you're watching, Rooney Mara makes a prediction at the beginning of the movie. She was wrong. You turned out to be a great entrepreneur, a great visionary and an incredible altruist," Sorkin said.

The win by Portman for her role as a ballerina coming unhinged amid a production of "Swan Lake" sets her up for a two-woman showdown for best actress at the Feb. 27 Oscars with Bening, who won for her role as a stern lesbian mom in "The Kids Are All Right," which also won for best musical or comedy film.

It's familiar territory for Bening. She won the same prize at the Globes 11 years ago for "American Beauty" and went in as the best-actress favorite at the Oscars, where she lost to Globe dramatic actress winner Hilary Swank for "Boys Don't Cry."



In this publicity image released by NBC, screenwriter Aaron Sorkin accepts his award for Best Screenplay for a Motion Picture for the film, "The Social Network" during the Golden Globe Awards, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011 in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Portman thanked the film's choreographer, her fiance Benjamin Millepied, with whom she's expecting a child. He also appears in the movie, and his character doesn't want to sleep with hers.

"He's the best actor! It's not true, he totally wants to sleep with me," Portman said, giggling.

"Barney's Version" follows the many loves in his life: his three wives, played by Rachelle

Lefevre, Minnie Driver and Rosamund Pike, whom Giamatti described as "a trifecta of hotties."

"I got to smoke and drink and get laid in this movie and I got paid for it. An amazing, amazing thing," Giamatti said.

Bening won the musical or comedy actress prize in a field that included "The Kids Are All Right" co-star Julianne Moore. The film stars Bening and Moore as a couple whose family falls into turmoil after their teen children seek out the sperm donor that fathered them.

"I'm very proud to be a part of this very special film about two women who are deeply in love and try to keep their family together," Bening said.

"My partner, Julianne Moore, I have to thank first. She asked me to do the picture with her. She made it possible for us to shoot it where we shot it, when we did, so Julianne—you are a class act, thank you."

The buzz around town on Globes weekend was not only about likely winners, but also about a lawsuit filed Thursday by a former longtime publicist for the Globes claiming the organization that runs the show, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, engages in payola schemes for nominations and awards. The allegations have been denied by the HFPA, a group of about 90 reporters covering show business for overseas outlets.

Ricky Gervais returned as Globes host for the second-straight year. Gervais joked that Globe nominees weren't picked just so that Globe voters could hang out with stars such as Depp.

"They also accepted bribes," Gervais said, referring to the publicist lawsuit.

Philip Berk, who heads the HFPA, made no reference to the lawsuit during his appearance early in the show, simply offering a perfunctory plug for the quality of Hollywood movies.

Gervais pulled few punches as the night progressed, mocking Hugh Hefner, Charlie Sheen, Cher, Bruce Willis, Mel Gibson, Scientologists and Robert Downey Jr., among others.

*In Loving Memory of  
our Dearly Beloved*

**SADAKO  
MIDAR  
UCHEL**

September 17, 1943 – January 11, 2011

*In Her New Life, She now joins Her:*

**Parents:** Midar Obechelang, Bosch Ngiraumad  
**Children:** Elisa Uchel, Eric Uchel  
**Grand Children:** Rosalyn A. Mafnas, Francis Moon

*Her Love & memories will forever remain in the hearts of her:*

**Husband:** *Haruo Alfred Uchel*  
**Children:** *Jeffery & Pricilla Midar* (Roger, Vanessa, Jeffery, JayJay, Jayden)  
*Grace Uchel* (Sam & Deborah Defan-Christopher, David, Pablo Merar Jr.)  
*Michael & Karen Finey*  
*Eliezer & Martina Uchel* (Patrick & Luise-Zoe Rae – Tihannalyn – Patrick Jr. – Vaughn Joseph, Patrick & Jaylene – Kaylene – Leo Andre Ed – Jay Joaquin – Tyron – Benjamin Joerome, Joscelyn, Adrian)  
*Stanley & Carla Ngalen* (Melinda, Clarence, Melanie)

**Brothers & Sisters:** Emau Hindenburg, Joe Ngirakebou Midar, Spis Midar, John Saisang Midar, Eileen Midar, Freitas Midar, Junior Ngirakebou Midar

Nightly Prayers fellowship will be held at Kanat Tabla Residence from January 19-21, at 7:30PM.

On Saturday, January 22nd, Viewing will be at 11:00AM at the Hospital Chapel followed by Funeral Service. At 1:00PM, her remains will be escorted from the Hospital to Tanapag Cemetery.

Late lunch will be shared at Kanat Tabla Resident right after burial. Your presence & prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank You so much, Kom Kmal Mesaul, Kamagar Gad, Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From: **Haruo A. Uchel and Family**

*In Celebration of Her New Life*

**Jesusa Mendiola de Leon**

Familian "Kan"/"Damoa"

February 27, 1963 – January 13, 2011

of DanDan, Saipan was called Home by our Heavenly Father on Thursday, January 13, 2011 at the age of 47.

Holy Mass is being offered at 6:00 pm Thursday, 01/13 to Friday, 01/21 and Holy Rosary is being prayed immediately after the Mass.

*In Her New Life, She now joins Her:*

Parents: Felisa Muna Aguon Mendiola, Leocadio Castro Mendiola

Parent-In-Law: Loretta Miranda de Leon  
Brother: Jose Aguon Mendiola

*She will be dearly missed and remembered in the hearts of her:*

**Husband:** Jaime de Leon

**Children & Grand Children:** Sarah M. de Leon/Arthur Levy B. Agulto, Israel M./Jennalyn Betonio de Leon (Israel Junior), Jerbeth M. de Leon/Richard Flores (Riley Jae), Isabelle de Leon Navarro/Jefrey Navarro (Cassie Nicole)

**Brothers, Sisters, and Spouses:** Jesus A./Agnes DLR. Mendiola and Children, Vicente A./Eleonar T. Mendiola and Children, Ramon A./Lydia T. Mendiola and Children, Ana M. Naholawa and Children, Jose A./Magdalena S. Mendiola and Children, Noberto A./Imelda R. Mendiola and Children, Francisco A. Mendiola/Shirley Muna and Children, Leocadio A./Belinda B. Mendiola and Children, Candido A. Mendiola/Judy M. Flores and Children, Francisca M./Roman V. Reyes and Children, Mary Ann M./Michael J. Kiyoshi and Children

Her memories will be also cherished by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

On Saturday, January 22, 2011 at 7:30am, her remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home to San Antonio Church. Viewing and last respects will be held from 8:00am to 10:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

**Jaime de Leon and Children**



# Backstage and on red carpet at the Golden Globes

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.** (AP)—He didn't walk away with the supporting actor award, but the way Michael Douglas sees it he had plenty to celebrate at Sunday's Golden Globes.

"It's been a quiet year. Catherine is doing a Broadway show and six months of cancer," the silver-haired actor joked as he walked the red carpet with his wife, Catherine Zeta-Jones.

Douglas, who announced last week that his malignant tumor is gone and he believes he is cancer-free, looked fit as he arrived at Sunday's show.

"After you go through this, you have a greater appreciation of your fans. I feel good. I'm pacing myself and I'm enjoying it. I feel very happy to be here," he said, turning serious.

As those fans shouted his name from the bleachers, he turned to wave and smile.

The 66-year-old actor was nominated for a Golden Globe for his performance in "Wall Street: Money Never Sleeps."

Brad Pitt hung back, letting his partner, Angelina Jolie, work the media gauntlet at this year's Golden Globes.

Under slicked-back hair and behind sunglasses, Pitt surveyed the scene from the middle of the red carpet, chatting up friends as Jolie answered questions.

"My girls are always happy about me getting dressed up," said the actress, clad in an emerald gown.

Another Hollywood power couple, Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban, held hands while Kidman fielded most of the questions.

"When I make a film, I always say it's our film together," she said, nodding in Urban's di-

rection. "We share each other's accolades."

Aron Ralston, the hiker who was trapped beneath a boulder for "127 Hours," discovered a completely different atmosphere at the Golden Globes.

"If only there had been hoards of screaming women cheering me on," he said of his desperate experience in a desolate Utah canyon that resulted in his cutting off his right arm to save his life.

Ralston, whose real-life story earned three nominations, proclaimed it "the best movie that's ever been made."

"They get the Aron Ralston award if nothing else," he quipped.

It was clear he was thoroughly enjoying his moment in the Hollywood spotlight.

"It's my first time and unless I amputate my other hand, I doubt



Angelina Jolie and her husband Brad Pitt, left, arrive for the Golden Globe Awards Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

I'll be back here," he said.

Reactions to the 68th annual Golden Globe Awards, announced Sunday in Beverly Hills, Calif.:

"I am nothing if not falsely humble."—Jane Lynch, accepting her award for best supporting actress in a TV series.

"Somehow all of these women rendered exquisite performances without a shred of help from me, so I guess I'm just saying, I'd give it to all five of you. At once. The award ..."—Robert Downey Jr., in a bawdy presentation of the award for best comedic actress in a motion picture that started with him joking that he'd slept with all the nominees.

"Wow, were you two even born when the first 'Toy Story' came out?"—"Toy Story 3" di-

rector Lee Unkrich to 14-year-old actress Hailee Steinfeld and 16-year-old singer Justin Bieber, who presented him the award for best animated film.

"I'm going to try to talk fast before that sad music comes on."—Steve Buscemi, accepting the best actor in a TV series drama for his role on "Boardwalk Empire."

"I think I just dropped my heart between Natalie Portman and Julianne Moore. So if anyone sees that, please give it back to me."—Chris Colfer accepting his best supporting actor winner award for his role on the TV series "Glee."

"It's going to be a night of partying and heavy drinking. Or as Charlie Sheen calls it—breakfast."—Host Ricky Gervais in his opening monologue.

## 'Green Hornet' stings box office with \$34M debut

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—"The Green Hornet" is buzzing away with the top spot at the weekend box office.

The tongue-in-cheek superhero film starring Seth Rogen as a playboy-turned-crimefighter earned \$34 million during its opening weekend, according to studio estimates released Sunday. Sony Screen Gems' "Green Hornet," which was directed by indie auteur Michel Gondry, shot down Paramount's "True Grit," the Western that reigned supreme the previous weekend.

"As we moved down the road, it got a lot of love, the love that it deserved," said Rory Bruer, Sony's president of worldwide distribution. "I think everything worked really well for the film: the timing, the release date, the marketing, and, most importantly, the film itself. It all gelled in a terrific way. We're very pleased with the results."

The weekend's other major new release, Universal's "The Dilemma," opened in the No. 2 spot. The comedy starring Vince Vaughn and Kevin James as partners at an automobile design firm earned \$17.4 million. Despite driving away with the top two spots at the box office, Hollywood's first major new releases of the year didn't help to rev up ticket sales.

Hollywood's overall revenues this weekend con-

tinued the slump that's persisted through the fall and holiday season. Ticket sales this weekend totaled \$115.2 million, down 25 percent compared to the same period last year, when the sci-fi epic "Avatar" continued to dominate at the box office with \$42.7 million. Attendance was also down by 27 percent.

Potential Oscar contenders "True Grit," "The King's Speech" and "Black Swan" respectively

followed behind "Green Hornet" and "The Dilemma." Both the royal saga "King's Speech" and ballet thriller "Black Swan" are up for several awards, including best drama motion picture and best supporting actress, at Sunday's 68th annual Golden Globes ceremony.

"I think the lack of an 'Avatar' this season has given an opportunity to films like 'True Grit,' 'King's Speech' and 'Black Swan' to draw audiences to the theater who are looking for something that's getting great reviews and who are maybe wanting to watch the Oscars or the Golden Globes with an informed mind," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Tuesday.

### WINNERS' LIST

Winners of the 68th annual Golden Globe Awards, announced Sunday in Beverly Hills, Calif.:

#### MOTION PICTURES:

- **Picture, Drama:** "The Social Network."
- **Picture, Musical or Comedy:** "The Kids Are All Right."
- **Actor, Drama:** Colin Firth, "The King's Speech."
- **Actress, Drama:** Natalie Portman, "Black Swan."
- **Director:** David Fincher, "The Social Network."
- **Actress, Musical or Comedy:** Annette Bening, "The Kids Are All Right."
- **Actor, Musical or Comedy:** Paul Giamatti, "Barney's Version."
- **Supporting Actor:** Christian Bale, "The Fighter."
- **Supporting Actress:** Melissa Leo, "The Fighter."
- **Foreign Language:** "In a Better World."
- **Animated Film:** "Toy Story 3."
- **Screenplay:** Aaron Sorkin, "The Social Network."
- **Original Score:** "The Social Network."
- **Original Song:** "You Haven't Seen the Last of Me," (written by Diane Warren), "Burlesque."

#### TELEVISION:

- **Series, Drama:** "Boardwalk Empire," HBO.
- **Actor, Drama:** Steve Buscemi, "Boardwalk Empire."
- **Actress, Drama:** Katey Sagal, "Sons of Anarchy."
- **Series, Musical or Comedy:** "Glee," Fox.
- **Actor, Musical or Comedy:** Jim Parsons, "The Big Bang Theory."
- **Actress, Musical or Comedy:** Laura Linney, "The Big C."
- **Miniseries or Movie:** "Carlos," Sundance Channel.
- **Actress, Miniseries or Movie:** Claire Danes, "Temple Grandin."
- **Actor, Miniseries or Movie:** Al Pacino, "You Don't Know Jack."
- **Supporting Actress, Series, Miniseries or Movie:** Jane Lynch, "Glee."
- **Supporting Actor, Series, Miniseries or Movie:** Chris Colfer, "Glee."

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### The Green Hornet

Friday 4:00 7:00 9:30  
Sat & Sun 1:00 4:30 7:30 9:30  
Monday 1:00 4:00 7:00  
Tues thru Thurs 4:00 7:00

**Seth Rogen, Cameron Diaz**  
Comedy • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

By day, Britt Reid (Seth Rogen) is a millionaire publisher and popular media figure, but by night, Reid assumes the identity of fearless crime fighter The Green Hornet and teams with his trusted sidekick, Kato (Stephen Chow), to keep the streets safe for average citizens. Producer Neal H. Moritz spearheads this big-screen adaptation of the popular radio serial, comic book, film, and television series originated by Lone Ranger creators Fran Striker and George W. Trendle.



### Gulliver's Travels

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55  
Sat & Sun 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55  
Monday 1:30 4:30 7:30  
Tues thru Thurs 4:30 7:30

**Jack Black, Emily Blunt**  
Comedy, Fantasy • Rated PG

### Synopsis

Jack Black stars in the 20th Century Fox adaptation of Jonathan Swift's Gulliver's Travels with this fantasy-filled comedic production. This take on the timeless tale revolves around a shipwrecked journalist (Black) who discovers an island in the heart of the Bermuda Triangle where he is the biggest occupant in comparison to its tiny inhabitants. Shark Tale's Rob Letterman directs from a script by Forgetting Sarah Marshall's Nick Stoller and Joe Stillman (Shrek).



### Season of the Witch

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50  
Sat & Sun 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50  
Monday 1:10 4:10 7:10  
Tues thru Thurs 4:10 7:10

**Nicolas Cage, Ron Perlman**  
Thriller • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

Director Dominic Sena reenlists his Gone in 60 Seconds star Nicolas Cage on this 14th century supernatural thriller for Relativity Media. As the Black Plague spreads across Europe, a group of knights are enlisted to help give safe passage to a girl whose alleged powers of witchcraft are suspected to be the cause of the deadly pandemic.



### Little Fockers

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40  
Sat & Sun 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40  
Monday 1:20 4:20 7:20  
Tues thru Thurs 4:20 7:20

**Robert De Niro, Ben Stiller**  
Comedy • Rated PG 13



### True Grit

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35  
Sat & Sun 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35  
Monday 1:25 4:25 7:25  
Tues thru Thurs 4:25 7:25

**Jeff Bridges, Matt Damon**  
Western • Rated PG 13



### Tron: Legacy

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45  
Sat & Sun 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45  
Monday 1:05 4:05 7:05  
Tues thru Thurs 4:05 7:05

**Garrett Hedlund, Jeff Bridges**  
Science, Fiction • Rated PG



### The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Friday 4:15 7:15 10:00  
Sat & Sun 1:15 4:15 7:15 10:00  
Monday 1:15 4:15 7:15  
Tues thru Thurs 4:15 7:15

**Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes**  
Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG

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AP  
Natalie Portman arrives for the Golden Globe Awards Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011, in Beverly Hills, Calif.

## ABC's Sawyer lands first Kelly interview

**PASADENA, Calif.** (AP)—ABC's Diane Sawyer will air the first television interview with astronaut Mark Kelly, the husband of shooting victim Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

The network said that Kelly spoke to Sawyer on Saturday at the hospital where Giffords continues to recover from being shot in the head on Jan. 8.

ABC said Sunday the interview will air in a prime-time special on Tuesday night and in various ABC News broadcasts, starting Tuesday with "Good Morning America."

Kelly was interviewed briefly off-camera last week by CNN's Sanjay Gupta.

In the prime-time special, titled "The Congresswoman and the Astronaut: An American Story of Love and Strength," Kelly talks about the moment he heard his wife was shot, the bedside vigil he has kept and how the support of the nation has affected them, the network said.

It's a big get for Sawyer, the "World News" anchor who has long been competitive in the race for major newsmaker interviews.

ABC was the only national TV news division not to falsely report Giffords had died in the hours after the shooting, although its website briefly did. Kelly called an ABC affiliate in Houston when those reports were being broadcast to say that his wife was still alive.

# Risk-takers fuel fun fashion on Globes carpet

By **SAMANTHA CRITCHELL**  
AP FASHION WRITER

Fashion risk-takers helped the red carpet at Sunday's Golden Globes live up to its reputation as the liveliest of the awards season, with Helena Bonham Carter leading the way in mismatched—one red, one green—shoes.

She topped her multicolored, printed cocktail frock with a wacky hairdo woven with black netting.

It can't be described as a do or a don't: It's just pure Bonham Carter.

Olivia Wilde cleared her own path in an oversized chocolate-brown ballgown by Marchesa

with beading that mimicked a starry night. "I'm a wide load—give me 20 feet," Wilde joked.

"I like wearing big dresses, it's fun. We go to so many parties in this town, the Globes are something to play with in terms of fashion," she added.

Still, there was room at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., for waves of gowns in green, red, black and blush tones.

Angelina Jolie, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Elisabeth Moss in Donna Karan and Mila Kunis all did green justice, and the red looks on Sofia Vergara and January Jones were impossible to ignore. Jones actually requested this dress—originally on the

Versace runway in blue—to be made in the bright lipstick hue.

Black wasn't boring on a super-sexy Halle Berry, a voluptuous Eva Longoria and a sleek Piper Perabo.

Sandra Bullock wore a powder shade and so did Scarlett Johansson, while Claire Danes, Lea Michele and Julianna Margulies picked pink.

Natalie Portman covered her growing baby bump with a delicate, lengthwise flounce on her pink Viktor & Rolf that was adorned with a bright red flower at the bustline. "It was very suited for my body at the moment," Portman said. "I'm feeling good. It's kind of a disguise."

## Host Gervais guarantees the Globes are irreverent

By **FRAZIER MOORE**  
AP TELEVISION WRITER

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Back for a second year to host the Golden Globes, Ricky Gervais set the tone early for this awards show recognized as much for its revelry as its prizes.

"It's going to be a night of partying and heavy drinking," Gervais began his monologue, sipping from a glass of what looked like beer. "Or, as Charlie Sheen calls it, breakfast."

He made a compound zinger at the expense of nominated film "The Tourist."

"I feel bad about that joke," he said after his first round. "I'm jumping on the bandwagon, because I haven't even seen 'The Tourist.'" (Beat.) "Who has?"

He was just warming up. He went on to tell the audience that "The Tourist" had not been nominated by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association just because its members wanted to hang out with the film's stars, Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie.

"That is not the only reason," Gervais insisted with a saucy smile. "They also accepted bribes." (A lawsuit filed last week claims the HFPA has engaged in payola schemes for

nominations and awards.)

Gervais moved on to zap, apparently, one of Hollywood's biggest stars, Tom Cruise—although without naming him.

Turning to films that weren't nominated for Golden Globes this year, Gervais mentioned "I Love You, Philip Morris," featuring, as he put it, "two heterosexual actors pretending to be gay. Sort of the complete opposite of some famous Scientologist."

"Oooooooo," went the audience.

"My lawyers helped me with the wording of that joke," Gervais said.

In the audience, Alec Baldwin was seen wiping a tear from his eye at Gervais' wise-cracks. Robert De Niro had dissolved in laughter.

Having already bitten the hand that was feeding him, Gervais soon bit the HFPA's other hand.

He announced that Eva Longoria would be on next with "the daunting task" of introducing Philip Berk, the association's president.

"That's nothing," Gervais added. "I just had to help

him off the toilet and pop his teeth in."

Unlike everyone else, Burke was unamused.



Gervais

Before offering his greetings to the audience, Berk, wearing a tight smile, said, "Ricky, next time you want me to help you qualify your movie, go to another guy."

"Oooooooo,"

went the audience again.

A bit later, Gervais had doffed his jacket. Look out now!

Introducing presenter Robert Downey Jr., Gervais listed a few of the actor's many film credits, then said, "But many of you in this room probably know him best from such facilities as the Betty Ford Clinic and Los Angeles County Jail."

Sauntering on stage, Downey took a little bow, then quipped, "Aside from the fact that it's been hugely mean-spirited, with mildly sinister undertones, I'd say the vibe of the show is pretty good so far, wouldn't you?"

Never mind the vibe. Gervais did his job and then some, making sure the Globes was a party.

## Handmade cards are reminders of true meaning of Christmas

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I am writing in response to "Blue at Christmas" (Dec. 13). I think the card-making tradition she has with her niece is beautiful. In a time when so many people are rushed, and so many of us are focused on finding the "best deal" for Christmas, it is wonderful that "Blue" is teaching her niece the importance of thinking of others and spending time with loved ones. I hope they will carry on their tradition because I'm sure many people look forward to those handmade cards and treasure them every year.



Dear Abby

LINDSEY IN GRANITE CITY, ILL.

**DEAR LINDSEY:** If the avalanche of mail that poured into my office is any indication of how popular homemade cards are, the major greeting card companies had better look out. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** "Blue's" niece does not need to hear that she should quit a project just because some miserable, jealous "friend" makes ugly comments about it. Insulting other people's efforts, while attempting nothing on her own, indicates that the person is unwilling to tap into her own creativity and is jealous of anyone who does.

"Blue" should show those people how much their opinion really matters, which is not at all, and continue their tradition because they enjoy creating the cards together. If they continue, "Blue" and her niece can learn two Christmas lessons: Traditions are worth continuing, and what THEY think, not what others think, of their tradition is what matters.

CHRIS IN ATLANTA

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I have sent homemade cards for some time, for all major life events. I consider it my "ministry" because when I make them and enclose a personal note in each one, I'm thinking of and saying prayers for the recipient. That poor buffoon who doesn't grasp the significance of a handmade card doesn't deserve to get one.

MARGARET IN THE SOUTH

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I'm appalled that "Blue's" dear friends didn't appreciate the handmade Christmas cards she and her niece created. A pox on them all! But that's too harsh. Those people have already been cursed—with the taint of commercialism. If a store-bought card is what it takes to impress them, maybe they'll get all they can stand. Meanwhile, "Blue" and her niece should continue their creative and loving efforts and send their blessings to veterans, our troops, children or elders in hospitals and homes, or to others who will appreciate the value of time and love. I know I'd appreciate one of those masterpieces.

ROSEMARY IN MURRELLS INLET, S.C.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** In no way should they stop their tradition just because one "Scrooge" put a damper on things. This is a great teaching moment for the aunt to talk with her niece about human nature, how some people see the glass half-full while others see it half-empty. We should never allow the "half-empties" to steal the joy we derive from the little things in life.

MELISSA IN SPRINGDALE, ARK.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** Looks like we already have a winner for this year's Bah-Humbig Sourpuss Ingrate Award. I could barely comprehend the letter from "Blue," whose insensitive friends did not appreciate the lovely gesture of handmade cards.

CHERYL IN ELK GROVE, CALIF.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR READERS:** I would like to express my gratitude to all of you who sent me handmade holiday cards. They brought cheer to my staff and to me. Thank you!

LOVE, ABBY

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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## Beatles memorabilia museum opens in Buenos Aires

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina** (AP)—A brick from The Cavern Club, a check for 11 pounds signed by Ringo Starr, an "authentic" Beatles wig. These and thousands of other objects related to the "Fab Four" are luring Beatles fans to a new museum in Buenos Aires.

The museum is the product of the particular "Beatlemania" obsession of Rodolfo Vazquez, a 53-year-old accountant who became a fan at the age of 10 when he got their "Rubber

Soul" record. "With the song 'In my life' I fell in love with the Beatles," he told The Associated Press.

Vazquez scooped up all the memorabilia he could find in Buenos Aires about history's most famous rock band, an obsession that grew until he made it into Guinness World Records in 2001 as having the planet's largest collection.

At that point, Guinness noted that he had 5,612 items in the attic of his home in Buenos Aires.

His hoard has grown to more than 8,500 records, gadgets, puppets and games since then, more than 2,200 of which are on display in the Beatle Museum that just opened this month on Avenue Corrientes, in an area of the capital where tourists throng.

There are Beatles museums in Liverpool, England, and Hamburg, Germany, that display memorabilia along with objects from the band members' lives, and other private collections as well.







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# Jets back up trash talk, stun Patriots



**FOXBOROUGH, Mass.** (AP)—Shonn Greene placed the ball on the ground and used it as a pillow, resting his head on it after scoring the Jets' final touchdown of a stunning upset.

A quiet climax to a very loud week of non-stop jabbering, poking, berating, and then some, mostly by the New Yorkers.

On Sunday, they proved that they weren't all talk - trash talk - after all.

Now Rex Ryan's rowdy bunch is headed to its second straight AFC championship game after New York backed up its coach's boasts with a 28-21 win Sunday over the New England Patriots - the team with the best record in the NFL.

Mark Sanchez threw three touchdown passes and the Jets sacked Tom Brady five times in the most-hyped of the weekend's four postseason games following a week of verbal potshots from both teams.

"Maybe everybody else never believed, but we believed," Ryan said. "We're moving on. Same old Jets, back to the AFC championship. The only difference is this time we plan on winning."

The Jets, who lost that game to Indianapolis last year, will try to win their third straight postseason game on the road, against the Pittsburgh Steelers, next Sunday. The Steelers beat the Baltimore Ravens 31-24 on Saturday.

Late in Sunday's game, Ryan was true to his exuberant self. He ran down the sideline and celebrated with his players after Greene's 16-yard score with 1:41 left. And, when the game was over, Jets wide receiver Braylon Edwards did a backflip.

"We don't care what people say or whether they like us," cornerback Darrelle Revis said. "We just focus on what we need to do to win games."

New York led its fierce rival 14-3 at halftime before Brady's 2-yard touchdown pass to Alge Crumpler and Sammy Morris' run for a 2-point conversion made it 14-11 late in the third quarter. But Sanchez came right back with a 7-yard scoring pass to Antonio Holmes and New York finished the upset with Greene's touchdown.

The Jets (13-5) kept Ryan's prediction of a Super Bowl appearance alive. The Patriots (14-3) lost their third straight postseason game.

New York has a chance for its first Super Bowl berth since 1969 when another loudmouth, "Broadway Joe" Namath, backed up his guarantee with a 16-7 win over the Baltimore Colts.

Ryan has said many times that the Jets are a Super Bowl-caliber team, and has irritated fans, opposing players and media with his bold remarks. Last week he said the game was a contest between him and Patriots coach Bill Belichick. Then, after Antonio Cromartie called Brady an expletive on Tuesday, Ryan said he wouldn't punish his cornerback.

The ultra-serious Belichick wasn't as kind to Wes Welker.

The wide receiver was benched for the Patriots first series for subtle remarks apparently directed at Ryan. Welker made several references to feet in his news conference Thursday, interpreted by some as a dig at recent foot-fetish reports involving Ryan.

"I didn't think anything about it. I'm

just waiting for the opportunity to go out and play," Welker said. "I respect the New York Jets. I respect Rex Ryan."

Belichick refused to comment on why Welker missed the first series.

When the game ended, Belichick walked slowly to midfield where he met Ryan, patted his conqueror on the back with his left hand and shared some words.

"We just didn't do enough things well today," Belichick said. "It's obvious."

Even after the game, the verbal shots kept coming.

"I'm not embarrassed. I'm just frustrated," said Deion Branch, who scored the game's last touchdown on a 13-yard pass with 24 seconds remaining. "The embarrassing part came from a few classless (Jets) guys after the game. There were a lot of classless things that went on after the game ended."

Such as?

"Didn't you see it?" he said. "You've got to go back and watch it. Pretty classless stuff."

Sanchez completed 16 of 25 passes for 194 yards and touchdowns to LaDainian Tomlinson, Edwards and Holmes. Brady, who played poorly for his second straight postseason game, was 29-for-45 for 299 yards, two touchdowns and one interception.

"Our expectations this season were very high," Brady said. "Playoff football comes and really it comes down to who makes the plays, and we made too many mistakes."

Now Sanchez gets a chance to beat one of the NFL's best quarterbacks for the third straight week when he faces Ben Roethlisberger after knocking off Peyton Manning, who won the NFL's last two MVP awards and Brady, who is a favorite to win his second in four years.

"He's just now getting better and better and better," Ryan said.

He wasn't very good on Dec. 6 when the Patriots routed the Jets 45-3. That didn't matter Sunday.

"We don't try to look back and try to fight history," receiver Jericho Cotchery said. "We play in that moment. That's what it was all about today - making today our day."

And the trash talk just keeps coming.

"Big Ben, he's next on our list," Edwards said.

The Steelers have been made 3-point favorites.

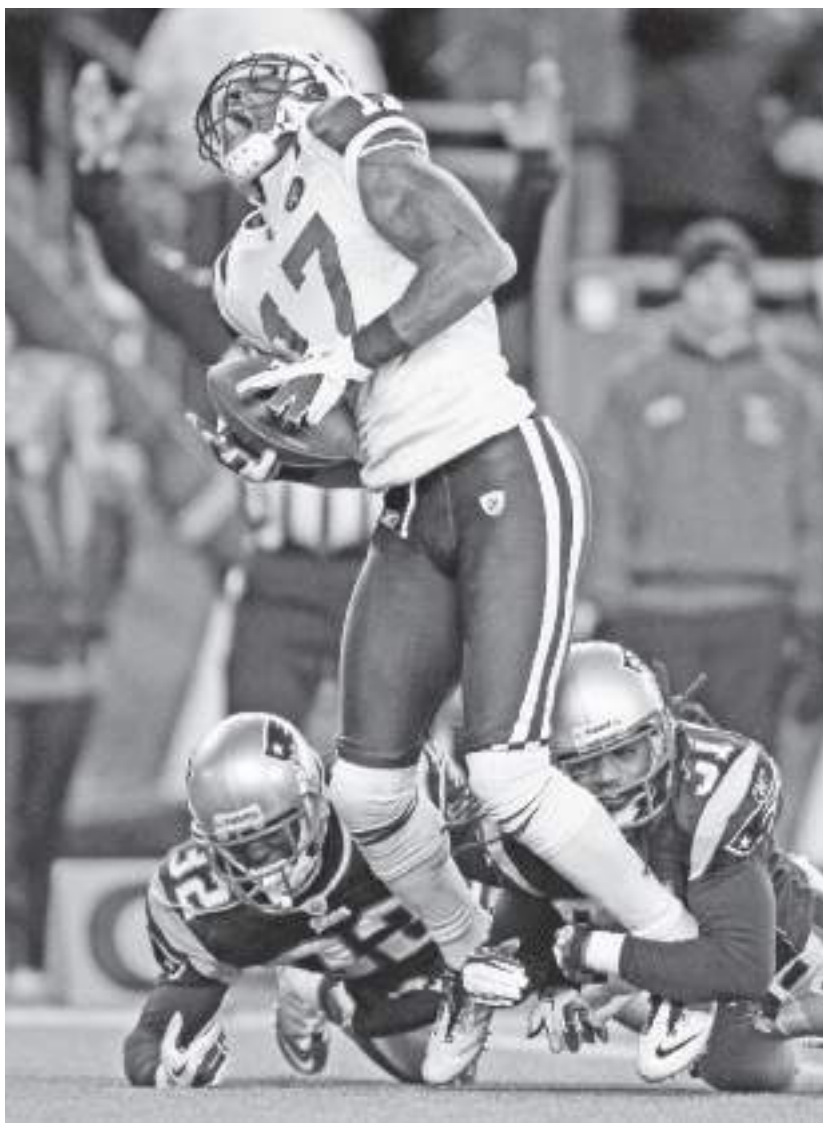
In one of their worst halves of the season, the Patriots looked more like the ragged group that went 5-11 in Belichick's first season in 2000 than the steamrolling machine that led the NFL this season with a 14-2 record and 32.4 points per game.

In the first two quarters, Brady absorbed three sacks and was sent scrambling at least that many times. He misfired on an interception on his first series after finishing the season with a league-record streak of 335 passes without a pick.

Then on the Patriots fifth possession, trailing just 7-3, they botched a fake punt attempt. Patrick Chung took the short snap and fumbled. He got the ball back but all escape routes closed quickly. He was tackled at the Patriots 37 with 1:06 remaining.

Plenty of time for Sanchez.

Just one week earlier, Indianapolis had taken a 16-14 lead with 53 seconds left on



New York Jets wide receiver Braylon Edwards (17) scores a touchdown past New England Patriots cornerback Devin McCourty (32) and safety Brandon Meriweather (31) during the first half of an NFL divisional playoff football game in Foxborough, Mass., Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011.

Adam Vinatieri's 50-yard field goal. But Sanchez brought New York back, connecting with Edwards on an 18-yard gain to the Colts 14, and Nick Folk kicked a 32-yard field goal as time expired, sending the Jets to Foxborough.

This time, after runs of 17 and 5 yards by Tomlinson and an incompleting, Sanchez hit Edwards for a 15-yard score and the Jets led 14-3 at halftime.

Fifty minutes before the game, a pumped-up Brady ran onto the field, jumping and clapping as he headed for the end where a couple of Jets were tossing the ball. It was the closest he would come to their end zone for nearly three quarters.

About 15 minutes after that, Ryan got his first boos when he was shown on the Gillette Stadium video screens hugging Jason Taylor as the linebacker was loosening up.

The fans had little to cheer about early in the game.

## Bears 35, Packers 24

In Chicago, football's oldest rivalry has a grand new prize: a spot in the Super Bowl.

Maybe even with an anniversary reprise of the "Super Bowl Shuffle" if the Chicago Bears can get past the Green Bay Packers.

"It's a big deal. We have a lot of history with them," Bears star linebacker Brian Urlacher said after a 35-24 victory over Seattle set up an NFC championship game matchup with Green Bay. "We don't like them, they don't like us."

Jay Cutler ran for two touchdowns and threw for two as Chicago (12-5) pounded the Seahawks from the outset. The Bears' built a 28-0 lead, but it was against the first division winner with

a losing record, making it difficult to measure how good they are. The NFL will find out next week against the Packers (12-6), who have beaten third-seeded Philadelphia and top-seeded Atlanta on the road this month.

The last time Chicago won the NFL title, Walter Payton, Jim McMahon and Mike Singletary did the "Super Bowl Shuffle" all over their opponents. That was 25 years ago, and to compare these Bears with the wild bunch that won Chicago's only Super Bowl 25 years ago is a stretch.

But next Sunday's matchup is fitting if only for the history: It will be the biggest game in Chicago's 90-year series with the Packers. They will play for the 182nd time next Sunday, but it's their first meeting for the NFC title.

"Now that we have beaten the Seahawks, it just doesn't get any better, as I see it, than for the NFC championship coming down to the Packers coming down on our turf this time," Bears coach Lovie Smith said. "The Packers and Bears to finish it up."

Cutler made it possible as much as anybody. And he did it with nimble feet as well as precise throws, running for 6- and 9-yard TDs.

"It was fun," he said with a smile. "That first one was called. Second one was kind of improve."

There was nothing improvisational about the way the Bears' defense shut down an offense that scored 41 points against New Orleans last week, but that gained only 111 through three periods at Soldier Field, where Seattle managed a 23-20 victory in October. The Seahawks' points all came with the outcome decided.

"Now we're back, playing together,

hopefully peaking at the right time," Urlacher said.

Cutler, in his first postseason game, showed none of the wild swings that often have marked his five-year career. His shifty moves on a 6-yard run made it 21-0, essentially turning everyone's attention to next weekend.

"We're both familiar with each other, so nothing's going to be new," Cutler said. "We have our hands full."

Not much was expected of the Bears when the season began, but they've improved mightily since falling to 4-3 heading into their bye week. They clinched a playoff berth with two games remaining, grabbing their first NFC North championship since 2006 - when they lost to Indianapolis in the Super Bowl.

Unlike Atlanta and Pittsburgh on Saturday, they showed no rust from having a bye in dominating Seattle. Then again, the Seahawks showed none of the surging emotions or big-play abilities they sprung on the Saints at home. It was merely a one-week reprieve, and they went even flatter after tight end John Carlson was carted off with a head injury in the first quarter following a nasty spill; Carlson landed on the side of his helmet and his shoulder, but had movement in his extremities.

Seattle lost cornerback Marcus Trufant to a head injury in the third quarter when he collided with Kellen Davis' knee while trying to make a tackle. Trufant also was carted off, but he also had feeling in his extremities.

Coach Pete Carroll said both players were hospitalized and were expected to stay overnight for observation. He said "all indications are that they are OK."

Chicago put away the game with touchdowns on three of its first four possessions, by which time Urlacher, Julius Peppers and the rest of the defense had taken charge.

Greg Olsen, showing impressive speed for a tight end, streaked past safety Lawyer Milloy for a 58-yard TD reception on Chicago's third offensive play. Chester Taylor added a 1-yard TD run and Cutler's 6-yarder built an insurmountable lead.

Cutler liked using his feet so much he added a 9-yard sprint in the third quarter to make it 28-0. He even threw in a 21-yard scramble in the fourth quarter and finished with a career-best 43 yards rushing, 9 more than the Seahawks.

"Jay's a very athletic quarterback," Seahawks linebacker Will Herring said. "So we have to account for that. He really hurt us with his feet."

Olindo Mare's 30-yard field goal got the first points for Seattle, which will get mixed reviews in Carroll's first season as coach. The Seahawks went 7-9, hardly what they had in mind when they hired Carroll away from Southern Cal. Still, they won the weak NFC West, and they eliminated the defending Super Bowl champions in the wild-card round.

"It took a long time for them to ... fight and compete and do the things we want them to do," Carroll said. "I would have loved to have got this game today that so many people didn't think we could. I see where we're going and I'm proud of that."

But the prospect of a .500 team playing for a berth in the Super Bowl is gone, even though Matt Hasselbeck threw for three fourth-quarter touchdowns.



# Late ejections mar Clippers win over Lakers

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Eric Gordon scored 30 points, Blake Griffin had 18 points and 15 rebounds after a foul-plagued start, and the Los Angeles Clippers snapped the Los Angeles Lakers' seven-game winning streak with a 99-92 victory Sunday.

Four players were ejected from this crosstown rivalry game after a scuffle under the basket with 5.7 seconds to play.

After Lamar Odom grabbed Griffin's jersey while fighting for a rebound, Baron Davis intervened and shoved Odom firmly in the chest, leading to more shoves. Odom, Griffin, Davis and Ron Artest all were ejected after the officials conferred, a decision that visibly baffled Griffin and Artest.

Kobe Bryant had 27 points and nine rebounds, and Andrew Bynum added 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Lakers, who couldn't keep up with the young Clippers in the fourth quarter.

Davis had 14 points and eight assists as the surging Clippers won for the fourth time in five games with yet another strong performance against the NBA's elite. Four days after beating Miami, the Clippers trailed by 12 points late in the third quarter before

making a 16-3 run in the final minutes, taking the lead with 4:09 left on Griffin's layup while getting fouled.

The Clippers limited Pau Gasol to 13 points and eight rebounds before he fouled out, stopping the Lakers' roll toward their second eight-game winning streak of the season. The Lakers lost for just the second time in 11 games since Bynum returned to their starting lineup.

The Staples Center crowd largely favored the Lakers, as usual when the clubs meet in their shared arena. But the Clippers still thrived in the final minutes for their ninth win in 13 games since a 5-21 start to the season.

The Clippers have played superbly against the NBA's best teams, also beating New Orleans and San Antonio when those clubs had the league's best record before stopping Miami.

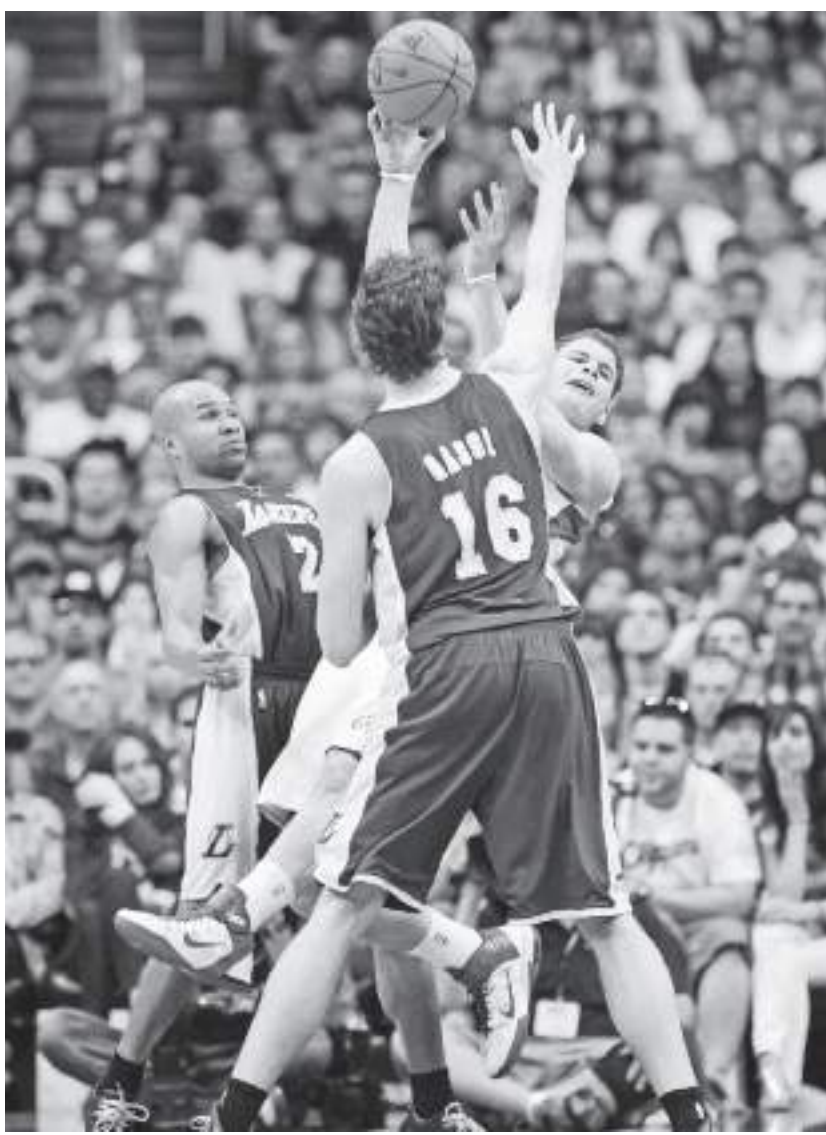
Yet the Clippers are still stuck near the bottom of the Western Conference because of their propensity for following up big wins with awful defeats, such as last Friday's loss to Golden State following Wednesday's win over the Heat.

Griffin broke Swen Nater's franchise record for consecutive double-doubles a week ago, but committed three fouls in the first half against the Lakers and didn't find a rhythm until late in the third quarter.

The rookie swiftly reached double digits in points and rebounds for the 26th straight game early in the fourth, but his streak of 14 straight games with at least 20 points ended.

The Lakers got to spend the long holiday weekend at home after winning seven games in an 11-day stretch. Bryant scored 14 points in the third quarter on a dazzling array of fallaway jumpers and drives, but the Lakers lost steam in the fourth.

The teams played a Sunday matinee because both have home games on the Monday holiday. Bynum got his third technical foul in the past week late in the third quarter for arguing with referee Sean Wright. Mariners OF Milton



Los Angeles Clippers' Blake Griffin, center right, is double teamed by Los Angeles Lakers' Derek Fisher and Pau Gasol (16), of Spain, in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Sunday, Jan. 16, 2011, in Los Angeles. The Clippers won, 99-92.

Bradley, a Los Angeles-area native who attended Long Beach Poly High School, watched the game from court-side. The Dodgers' Matt Kemp sat right next to the Lakers' bench.

## Spurs 110, Nuggets 97

In San Antonio, Tony Parker scored 30

points for San Antonio, Carmelo Anthony labored through a rough game as rumors of an imminent trade slightly cooled, and the Spurs beat the Denver Nuggets 110-97 on Sunday night.

Anthony may have more games in a Nuggets uniform yet. Coach George Karl said before tip-off he wasn't aware

of any drastic changes, and New Jersey Nets coach Avery Johnson also tried quieting rumors of an upcoming deal.

Talks of a blockbuster trade that would ship Anthony to the Nets have lately intensified. Pressed about the possibility Sunday, Johnson said the Nets' roster won't budge between now and Friday, The Star-Ledger of Newark reported.

Anthony, upbeat before the game, scored 12 points on just 5-of-17 shooting.

The NBA-best Spurs (35-6) won their sixth in a row.

Manu Ginobili added 18 points for San Antonio, which beat Denver for a third time and reached the season's midway mark tied for the third-best first half in NBA history. The last team this dominant through 41 games was Detroit in 2005-06, when the Pistons started 36-5 and wound up losing in the Eastern Conference finals.

The Spurs have a better finish in mind.

They extended their lead in the Southwest Division to eight games over the reeling Dallas Mavericks—their biggest division cushion in nearly 30 years.

Parker was 11 of 15 from the floor and had seven assists.

Reserves Gary Neal and George Hill scored 14 apiece, and Tim Duncan had nine points and 16 rebounds. The Spurs blew the game open with 33-7 run in the second quarter after the Nuggets built a 12-point lead early.

Al Harrington led the Nuggets with 18 points, Nene added 17 and Arron Afflalo 14.

Anthony didn't speak to reporters before the game. He sang with a wide smile as he strolled through the locker room, but he didn't look as content while missing two of his first 11 shots.

Karl arrived in San Antonio feeling good about his team, but Denver's three-game winning streak was halted. The Nuggets have two days off before finding out whether Anthony will be back in the lineup Wednesday against Oklahoma City.

## Reds, NL MVP Votto agree on three-year deal



**CINCINNATI (AP)**—Joey Votto powered the Cincinnati Reds to their first playoff appearance in 15 years, winning the NL MVP award for a breakthrough season.

The first baseman earned a raise, and boy, did he get one.

Votto has agreed to a \$38 million, three-year contract with Cincinnati, buying out his arbitration years and giving the reigning NL Central champs some short-term budget security.

A person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press about the deal on Sunday on condition of anonymity because the contract had not yet been announced.

Votto was a first-time All-Star in 2010, finishing second in the NL in batting average at .324 and third in homers (37) and RBIs (113). He led the NL in slugging percentage (.600), topped the major leagues in on-base percentage (.424) and had 16 stolen bases in 21 chances.

He made \$525,000 last year and was eligible for arbitration for the first time.

Now 27, Votto didn't become a major league regular until two years ago. Following the death of his father in August 2008, he went on the disabled list and missed 21 games the following year partly because of depression and anxiety.

He was a runaway winner in the MVP balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, receiving 31 of 32 first-place votes and 443 points. Cardinals first baseman Albert Pujols was second with the remaining first-place vote.

Born in Toronto, Votto became the third Canadian-born MVP, following Colorado's Larry Walker (1997) and Minnesota's Justin Morneau (2006).

**HONOLULU (AP)**—Mark Wilson made it through a 36-hole marathon Sunday without a bogey and held on for a two-shot victory in the Sony Open that will take him to the Masters for the first time.

Wilson shot a 5-under 65 in the morning to take a one-shot lead into the afternoon round. He stretched his lead to four shots at the turn, then had to hang on when Tim Clark and Steve Marino made late runs on different sides of Waialae.

Clark, who started the final round five shots behind, birdied three of his last four holes. He narrowly missed an eagle putt on the ninth hole and settled for a 64. Then came Marino with two late birdies and one incredible shot that at least gave him hope.

Two shots behind on the par-5 18th, with his feet in the bunker and his ball about chest-high on the side of a hill, Marino blasted a fairway metal from 234 yards away that landed on the front of the green and rolled 40 feet away. His eagle putt narrowly missed, giving him a 68.

Wilson made one last birdie he didn't need, giving him a 67 for his third career victory.

"It was nice to go right to the tee and not have to think about it," Wilson said of having only a few minutes before the third and fourth rounds. "I'm thankful it's over now."

Wilson, who finished at 16-under

264, played his final 40 holes without a bogey. That proved significant at a couple of points in the final round. He got into trouble on the eighth hole and was 150 yards out in the fairway playing his third shot, sure to lose some of his two-shot lead. But he stuffed it to 7 feet for par, then birdied the ninth to expand his lead to four.

Even bigger was his par on the 17th, even though Wilson didn't realize it.

Clark had already finished at 14-under 266. Marino was starting to charge with back-to-back birdies to get to 14 under, while playing in the same group with Wilson.

Wilson hit into a bunker and blasted out some 12 feet past the hole. But his par putt caught enough of the lip to fall, and he clutched his fist. Only later did Wilson reveal that he didn't look at a leaderboard, not wanting to think about anything but making birdies.

He asked his caddie as they walked toward the 18th green where they stood, and the caddie told him, "Just get it up-and-down." Wilson obeyed, pitching to 4 feet. The putt became easier when Marino missed his eagle.

The victory, worth \$990,000, was important to Wilson for a couple of reasons. He is in the last year of his exemption from winning in Mexico in

2009, and he is coming off a poor season in which he had only two top 10s.

And then there's the Masters.

Augusta National did not invite winners of most PGA Tour events until 2007, a month after Wilson won the Honda Classic. His win in Mexico didn't count because it was an opposite-field tournament, the same week as the Match Play Championship.

Jimmy Walker closed with a 68 to finish alone in fourth, while Matt Kuchar and Matt Bettencourt were another shot back. Stuart Appleby and

Shigeki Maruyama, who started Sunday tied for the 36-hole lead, never got going. Maruyama had rounds of 70-69 to tie for seventh, his first top 10 on the PGA Tour in two years. Appleby didn't make a birdie until the final hole of the last round and shot 72.

From top to bottom, 56 players were separated by only seven shots going into the final 36 holes, a recipe for anyone winning from anywhere. But on a quiet day near the shores of Waikiki, there was little movement.

Wilson chipped in from behind the third green for birdie and kept bogeys off his card a 65, the best score of the third round. It gave him a one-shot lead over Marino, who had a 66, but certainly not much room for error.

# A long day for Mark Wilson ends in victory



Kuchar pulled within one shot early in the fourth round, then dropped out with two straight bogeys. Marino stayed in the picture until a bogey on the eighth, failing to birdie the easy par-5 ninth, and hitting two poor wedges for a bogey on the short 10th.

The big move came from Clark, and he was on the other side of the course.

Because of the 36-hole final - forced by a washout in the first round Thursday—players did not change groups for the afternoon. Clark started the day six shots out of the lead, shot 66 in the morning and made his move on the front nine - his last nine holes. His birdie on No. 6 took him to 12 under, then he nearly made an ace on the par-3 seventh for a tap-in birdie and gave him two good looks at the end.

A 10-foot birdie putt on No. 8 caught the left lip, and his 15-foot eagle on the ninth never had a chance.

"I kind of figured if you could get it going around here, I might still have a chance, even though we were on different nines," Clark said. "This back nine, I kind of got it going there with some iron shots. A few putts would have helped, but very pleased."

With the runner-up finish, Clark should move to No. 20 in the world. With Charl Schwartzel winning the Joburg Open earlier Sunday, that means South Africans will occupy the first five spots in the Presidents Cup standings.



# SEDA fetes champion teams

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
walter\_sutherland@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



The Saipan Electronic Darts Association held its awards ceremony in Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club last Sunday, honoring regular season winners and Bud Cup champions in nine different divisions.

VFW's Angry Dragons were the first local team to win the Master's division Budweiser Cup. The team is composed of captain Ed Diaz, Jayson John, Lionel Sanchez, Jerry Zapanta, and Charlie Peters.

In the regular season, the Masters first place trophy went to Top Development Incorporated's Black Stallions, who fell to Angry Dragons, 5-9, in the Bud Cup finals.

The Black Stallions finished the season with a 162-76 record. Members of the team are captain Noel Montalbo, Jun Olita, Joy Silva, Robert Valdez, Jun Laperciros, and George Medina. Olita won both Most Valuable Player and Top Gun awards.

In the A Division, the Bud Cup went to Naked Fish Bar & Grill's Naked Fish Boyz. Members of the team captain Joey Pangelinan, Marvin Pangelinan, Peter Deleon Guerrero, Jack Guerrero, Cedric Palacios, Adrian O. Sablan, and James Tudela.

The Flying Dartsmen of Buddies' Bar & Grill finished first in the A-division with their 155-83 slate. The cham-



WALTER SUTHERLAND

The most valuable players in various divisions pose for group photo during the 2010 Saipan Electronic Darts Association awards ceremony at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret last Sunday.

pion team has captain Julian Camacho, Wilson Quiban, Patrick Taitano, Albert Guevarra, Benancio Aguon, and Jay C. Sablan as members.

Charlie's Primos' Lionel Sanchez won the MVP honors, while teammate Glenn Camacho took both Top Gun and Hi-Out honors, while Jeff Barit of DPBG's CK Destroyers nailed the Hi-In award.

Yakau of Jonny's Bar swept both the Ladies League's Bud Cup and the regular season (141-69 record) Members include captain Mary-Lois Blaluk, Frances Mogofna, Janice Camacho, Ressie Takeda, Rina Cerezo, and Sally Aguan.

Aida Laniyo of Mama's Snipers won both MVP and Top Gun awards, Polly Omechelang of USSP's Kmal Sechelim nailed Hi-In and the Strikers' Rufina Guevarra prevailed in the Hi-Out award.

Tijuana Mexican Restaurant's Mixed Blood Shooters won the Tuesday-B

League Bud Cup. The team is composed of captain Mario J. Espinoza, Angelo Hernaez, Josua Wodson, Monching Castillo, William Angeles, and Bambam Vicente.

Salbahe Brothers 2, composed of captain Jojo Guilas, Ernie Domingo, Vher Maducdoc, Chris San Gabriel, Renato Barros, Rick Brien, and Willy Apresta, finished the season in first place in the division with their 139-71 slate. Mixed Blood's Hernaez took home MVP, Top Gun and Hi-In honors, while Ricky Cardinez of the B-Destroyers won the Hi-Out award.

Buddies' Boyz-B clinched the Thursday B-Fanihi League Bud Cup. Members include team captain George Medina, Ernest Maicle, Mario Abo, Eclid Salazar, Ricky Cardinez, and Rolly Morales. The Salbahe Brothers won the Thursday B-Fanihi division

regular season with its 129-83 card. The team is made up of the same members of Salbahe Brothers 2, with Michelle Melchor in place of Brien.

Boyz-B's Mario Abo gained the MVP and Top Gun honors, PeeJay Naval of Kamote's won the Hi-In, and Ray Cabrera of Buddies' Naughty Boyz 2 won the Hi-Out award.

Jonny's Umi Shooters won both the Bud Cup and B-Flame Tree division with a 129-81 record. The team has captain Alfred Muna, Christopher Jao Bernardo, Nelson Decena, James Villacrusis, Manny Blas Jr., Alejandro Prado, Jeremy Koshiro, and Naomi Samura as members.

Jun Agbuya of Wild Shooters and the Umi Shooters' Bernardo were named co-MVPs. Agbuya also won Top Gun honors, Phil Fejehran of VFW's Dutty Gunz won the Hi-In, and teammate Dean Borja won the Hi-Out award.

Janice Camacho, Diony Camacho, David Terlaje, Jay Sablan, Mark Dela Cruz, Pedro Teregeyo, and Frank Camacho of Buddies' Black Pearls won C-Kingfisher Bud Cup honors, while Buddies Chagi Fan won the division with its 132-93 record. Chagi Fan has captain Jesse Borja, Augustine Hocog, Edwin Atalig, Elton Santos, Shawn San Nicolas, Jon Jon San Nicolas, Ken Villagomez, and Joe Aldan, as members.

Borja was the league MVP, Black Pearl's David Terlaje took the Top Gun, Jun Manaloto of Sang And The Gang and Sabalu's Ray Anthony Aguon won the Hi-In and Hi-Out awards, respectively.

VFW One Shot won the Chichirika C division, but was defeated by sister-team Oh! MG in the Bud Cup finals, 8-7. Oh! MG's Angela Santos, Arisa Sakai, Tan-

Making up the Final Four were Paire, Matansa U18, Tan Holdings FC, and Shirley's Coffee Shop.

Shirley's advanced to the next round after a 4-2 win over Matansa; Matansa U18 prevailed over MHS U18, 2-1; Paire downed MPU 2, 4-2; and Tan Holdings edged MPU 1, 3-2.

Shirley's and Matansa U18 will battle in the first semis game this Saturday at 8am, while Tan Holdings FC and Paire will duel in the second semis tiff at 9am. Winners of these semis games will slug it out in the B league finals at 1pm.

game, the Ol'Aces were to face Rollers in the third match, and IP&E Konflikt was to duel Mobil in the nightcap. Results of these three matches were unavailable at press time.

**Hoopaholics 88** – Fitial 21, D. Sablan 19, J. Sablan 17, Joyner 12, P. Rasa 10, I. Rasa 5, Manibusan 2.

**Prospects 71** – Peredo 16, Barbo 15, Chariton 10, E. Aughenbaugh 9, D. Aughenbaugh 8, White 4, Apelo 2, Camacho 2, Inos 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 24-18, 50-33, 61-54, 88-71.

fronts the Fielders in the Junior, Senior and Big divisions.

With the league less than a month away from its opening, other teams are still looking for sponsorship. The Majors division has 14 teams, Juniors has seven, and Seniors and Big League have six each. Games in the Majors division will be played at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Ballfield, while matches in the three other divisions will take place at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

to train with Major League Baseball's Pittsburgh Pirates at their spring training facility at McKechnie Field in Bradenton, Florida. He also said that the whole team is expected to come back to Saipan next year.

## MP UNITED

From Page 28

er Manibusan' fumble, as the IFC A1 goalie rushed to stop the ball from rolling to the net. At first, she was successfully, but again she lost grip on the ball, and MP United went up, 2-0. Manibusan had problems with her shoes, as she often slid on the floor.

IFC A1 finally made it to the scoreboard in the 36th minute with Lindsay Davis threading MP United's defense and the ball rolling in between the legs

of goalie Rachel Masga.

A few minutes after Davis scored off Masga, Melody Matson took the latter's spot. It was a wise move on the part of MP United, as IFC A1 became more aggressive in the second half.

Manibusan, who was replaced by Cathy Anderson in the second half, borrowed her teammate's shoes in the second half and then tried to help Davis attack MP United's defense. She made three attempts, but each time the ball just hit the right post and Matson quickly stepped in to pick it up. Davis also made

several tries, however Matson did a great job in denying IFC from scoring.

On offense, MP United drew one more goal in the second half with Natalie Hill scoring on a breakaway in the 40th minute.

The MP United-Paire title game will be played at 12pm this Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.

## B league semis cast complete

Meanwhile, the semifinals cast in the B league divisions was completed last Saturday.

## HOOPAHOLICS

From Page 28

within five, 53-58. The defending champion kept coming back, but each time it sliced the lead to single digits, the Hoopaholics found ways to pull away again.

An undergoal stab from Darwin Barbo cut the Hoopaholics lead to seven, 63-70, midway in the fourth quarter, but John Sablan anchored a quick 7-0 run to double the advantage, 77-63.

The Hoopaholics' lead never went down to single digits from thereon on and the Jerry Diaz-coached squad be-

gan fielding its bench players in the last 1:33 of the match with the Hoops comfortably ahead, 84-67.

The Hoopaholics simply had more options on offense than Prospects, which had several new players struggling to play with the team's holdovers.

Besides Joyner and Fitial, the Hoopaholics drew double figures from three other players. Dave Sablan had 19, while John Sablan chipped in 17, as the two scored fastbreak layups off Prospect's errors. Ponce Rasa contributed 10, making most of them also on layups.

Peredo paced Prospects with his 16

points, which was spread evenly in the four quarters of the match. Barbo tallied 15, but could not get his inside game going against the Hoops much taller frontliners. New Prospects player Keoni Chariton had 10 points in a losing effort, but was scoreless in the fourth, while holdover Derrick Aughenbaugh had a quite eight points. The rest of Prospects players combined for only four field goals.

Meanwhile, three more games were played in the UBA league's opening day. The IT&E Fundamentalists were set to meet NMC Proa in the second

## MCDONALD'S

From Page 28

all of his hard work over the years. He is an excellent coach and mentor for the kids," Ayuyu said.

Ayuyu added he hopes McDonald's sponsorship will entice other potential sponsors to help provide the rest of the teams with funding.

"We are lucky that Mr. Ayuyu has been supporting us year in and year out. Some of the kids they sponsored

in the past have graduated through the SLLB program, some of whom now help coach and instruct the new classes of upcoming players," Tenorio said.

"Sponsors really make it possible for most of CNMI organized sports competitions to push through, not just baseball. If not for them, then we would not have funds to operate the league. Without sponsors, the kids would not be able to compete off-island at the end of the year. Those experiences are very important to the

## LG TWINS

From Page 28

rary protective nets at the field to provide a safer training environment.

According to Flores, it's the team's

seventh year here. He added Twins keep coming back because of the gracious hospitality they received in the past. Flores also said it is snowing back in Korea and Saipan is a good alternative for a training camp, not just be-

cause of its nice weather, but also due to its proximity from Seoul.

Flores added that normally the entire team visits Saipan for its spring training, but the other members of the team traveled to the mainland this year

ya Songsong, Daniel Stafford, Donovan P. Castro, Martha Mendiola Steve Gardiner and team captain Carol Chargualaf foiled One Shot's division sweep bid. One Shot members include captain Tina Agulto, Randy Pagapular, Jeff Bacani, Oscar Porras, Dexter Mendiola, Russel Salmon and Kevin Maratita.

Felix Owen Travilla of Gaia Bar's Gaiana-C was the MVP, One Shot's Porras won Top Gun honors, Raymond David of Jonny's Night Hawks and Ressie Takeda won the Hi-In and Hi-Out awards, respectively.

Buddies AG's Piligro won the Inter-Government League Bud Cup against division champ Charley's CUC Power Plant. Piligro members include captain Jayson John, Lionel Sanchez, Glenn Camacho, Jay C. Sablan, Angela Rosario, Tony Celis, Venetia Sanchez and Vince Rosario. CUC (170 -70) members include captain Ray Cepeda, Dennis Villagomez, Patrick Taitano, Frank Mizutani, Joy Silva, leo Cabrera, Tony Dela Cruz, and Erwin Clavecillas.

DPH-Oh Yeah!'s Ed Diaz won the High-In award, Piligro's John took Hi-Out honors, CUC's Silva was awarded Top Gun, and DYS Atdit's Julian Camacho won the MVP.



## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	30	9	.769	—
New York	22	17	.564	8
Philadelphia	16	23	.410	14
Toronto	13	27	.325	17 1/2
New Jersey	10	30	.250	20 1/2

##### Southeast Division

Miami	30	12	.714	—
Orlando	26	14	.650	3
Atlanta	26	15	.634	3 1/2
Charlotte	15	23	.395	13
Washington	11	27	.289	17

##### Central Division

Chicago	27	13	.675	—
Indiana	16	21	.432	9 1/2
Milwaukee	14	23	.378	11 1/2
Detroit	14	26	.350	13
Cleveland	8	32	.200	19

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Southwest Division

San Antonio	35	6	.854	—
Dallas	26	13	.667	8
New Orleans	25	16	.610	10
Memphis	19	21	.475	15 1/2
Houston	18	23	.439	17

##### Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	27	13	.675	—
Utah	27	13	.675	—
Denver	23	17	.575	4
Portland	21	20	.512	6 1/2
Minnesota	10	31	.244	17 1/2

##### Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	30	12	.714	—
Phoenix	17	21	.447	11
Golden State	16	23	.410	12 1/2
L.A. Clippers	14	25	.359	14 1/2
Sacramento	9	29	.237	19

#### Yesterday's Games

L.A. Clippers 99, L.A. Lakers 92  
San Antonio 110, Denver 97

### SONY OPEN SCORES

**HONOLULU (AP)** — Scores Sunday at the Sony Open, a \$5.5 million PGA Tour event played at the par-70, 7,044-yard Waialae Country Club:

#### FINAL ROUND

Mark Wilson	65-67-65-67—264
Tim Clark	68-68-66-64—266
Steve Marino	65-67-66-68—266
Jimmy Walker	68-65-66-68—267
Matt Bettencourt	68-65-68-67—268
Matt Kuchar	65-68-66-69—268
Shigeki Maruyama	65-65-70-69—269
Roland Thatcher	67-65-68-69—269
Chris Riley	66-69-66-69—270
Jerry Kelly	68-67-69-66—270
Steve Stricker	69-67-68-66—270
Davis Love III	68-66-67—270
Rory Sabbatini	69-66-67-69—271
Anthony Kim	71-64-68-68—271
Chad Campbell	67-67-68-69—271
Tag Ridings	68-67-68-68—271
Justin Rose	65-68-68-70—271
Stuart Appleby	64-66-69-72—271
Brian Gay	69-68-70-64—271
Brendon de Jonge	68-67-66-71—272
Jeff Overton	67-68-68-69—272
John Senden	71-65-67-69—272
Jason Day	69-67-66-70—272
Kevin Na	67-67-69-69—272
Cameron Beckman	69-67-68-68—272

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



# 2010 SEDA Awards Banquet



The TDI Black Stallions pose for a photo after receiving their awards for finishing the Masters division regular season in first place.



The VFW Angry Dragons were all smiles after accepting their Masters division Budweiser Cup trophies during the 2010 Saipan Electronic Darts Association Awards Banquet at Pacific Islands Club's Charlie's Cabaret last Sunday.



The nine divisional Hi-In award winners pose for a photo.



The Top Guns winners in the nine divisions show their trophies.



The nine divisional Hi-Out awardees show their trophies.



The Naked Fish Boys of Naked Fish Bar & Grill receive their A division Budweiser Cup trophies.



Members of Yakau get both the Bud Cup and regular season first place trophies in the ladies division.



Oh! M G takes the Bud Cup trophy in the Chichirika C division.



Members of Salbahe Brothers receive their trophies in the Fanihi division.

**PHOTOS BY WALTER SUTHERLAND**

The Flying Dartsmen of Buddies' Bar & Grill smile for the camera after accepting their A division regular season first place trophies.





**Jets back up  
trash talk,  
stun Patriots**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports



**Late ejections  
mar Clippers win  
over Lakers**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## McDonald's continues sponsorship of Majors team

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER



McDonald's Saipan kept its commitment to Little League program after donating \$500 to a local team that will compete in the Major League

division of the 2011 Saipan Little League Baseball.

McDonald's Saipan president and owner Joe Ayuyu presented team manager Patrick Tenorio with a \$500 sponsorship check that will cover the entrance fee for McDonald's team in the Majors division of the SLLB competition this season. The donation ceremony was held at

McDonald's Middle Road yesterday morning.

"It is our 10th year of sponsoring a little league team and we are very happy and excited for the kids who will get a chance to play ball this season. This is a great way to give back to the community and I want to credit Mr. Tenorio for

See MCDONALD'S on Page 26

McDonald's Saipan president and owner Joe Ayuyu, right, presents team manager Patrick Tenorio, center, with a \$500 sponsorship check for McDonald's Majors division team during the donation ceremony yesterday at McDonald's Middle Road. Also in the picture is McDonald's employee Miles Ianne Pamintuan.

WALTER SUTHERLAND



# MP United vs Paire in A league finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

It will be MP United and Paire in the championship game in the A division of the 2010 NMIFA Women's Futsal Fall League.

These two teams arranged their title duel in the A league after notching separate wins at the start of the playoff round last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. Paire played in the first semis game in the A league division and crushed Independents Football Club A2, 8-0. Paire, which ruled the regular season with an unbeaten record to gain the top seeding in the single-elimination playoffs, scored three goals in the first half and then played even better in the second half, tallying five more goals.

MP United booked the second finals berth after edging the depleted IFC A1, 3-1.

Carrie Schuler scored the first



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United B1's Merle Hudkins reaches for the ball, while a Tan Holdings player defends her during their play-off game in the B division of the NMIFA futsal league last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

goal for MP United in the seventh minute, as she kicked the ball toward the center of IFC A1's goal. Goalie Anna Mani-

busan dove for the ball and it looked like she was up for a save, but butterfingers cost her to lose the leather, giving Schul-

er and MP United a goal.

MP United got its second goal 10 minutes later off another

See MP UNITED on Page 26

## Hoopaholics win UBA debut

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The beefed-up Hoopaholics got off to a strong start in the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League after pounding defending champion Prospects in the season opener, 88-71, yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada



Gymnasium. New recruits Kelvin Fitial and Jawn Joyner proved good additions to the Hoopaholics, as the two frontliners helped the team both on offense and defense. Fitial had a game-high 21 points, while Joyner finished with 12 in his return to competitive basketball.

Fitial, who played for Advance X-Terminations in last

season's UBA caging, muscled his way in the paint, converted a couple of short jumpers, and collared rebounds for his first game with his new team.

Joyner, who missed hard-court action for more than a year, gave the Hoopaholics' mobility, penetrating Prospects' sloppy defense. However, he was more applauded for his shot-blocking ability. He had two in the fourth quarter, blocking Alex Lauron's fade-way jumper and then swatting the shot of Errol Peredo in the closing minutes of the game.

The Hoopaholics led from start to finish, posting its biggest lead in the second quarter, 48-30, before Prospects moved

See HOOPAHOLICS on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Hoopaholics' Ponce Rasa goes for a hang-time move against Prospects' Keoni Chariton (14) and Eli Aughenbaugh (2) during their game in the opening day of the UBA caging yesterday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



WALTER SUTHERLAND

An LG Twins player takes a cut during a training session last week at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

## LG Twins return for spring training

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

The LG Twins Baseball Club is back on island for its three-week spring training camp. The team has been practicing daily at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The LG Twins are a professional baseball team based in Seoul, Korea and a member of the Korean Baseball Organization. The team was founded in 1982 and since then has won a pair of league championship Korean Series titles in 1990 and 1994. The Twins, fronted by manager Park Jong Hoon, finished sixth in the league last season with a record of 57 wins and 71 losses. Eight teams make up the Korean



Professional Baseball League.

Long-time friend Derron Flores is assisting the visiting team. Flores is a local youth baseball coach and former staff at the Division of Sports and Recreation, which operates the Oleai Sports Complex, and has developed a trusted relationship with the team over the years. His father, Mayor Donald Flores, has also been a long-time supporter of the team.

This year a group just shy of 40 players that make up the Twins' bullpen staff made the trip over. The team's pitchers and catchers have been participating in batting practice, running exercises, and situational baseball drills. They have constructed tempo-

See LG TWINS on Page 26